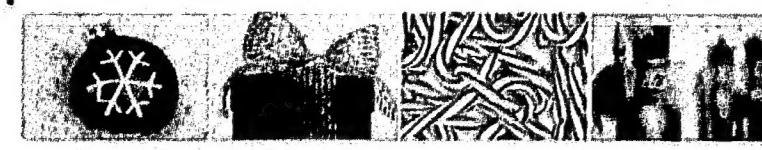


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The Holiday Gift Guide

Make your holiday dinner party a smash hit!
Plus: Great offers from many area stores!

> Pages 13-16



Mahoosuc Kids

Lego Team competition results and more!

> Page 11

The Bethel Citizen

Vol. CXX - No. 51

Thursday, December 17, 2015

90¢ a Copy

Serving Bethel and neighboring communities in the mountains of western Maine



THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES AT CPS-Children's Stage Adventures, Inc. directed elementary children in a Western-style production of "The Emperor's New Clothes" Friday at the Crescent Park Elementary School. Here, teacher Miss Mary (Lorrie Gray) talks with "Emperor" Riley Jerome. For another photo see, Page 10.

A. Aloisio

Strings program seeks more students

By AMY WIGHT CHAPMAN

Pass by the Telstar Middle School music room after school on Thursday or Friday, and you'll probably hear "Jingle Bells" or "Joy to the World" being played on string instruments by enthusiastic beginning students.

Eight young violinists and one cellist, ranging in age from six to 16, are receiving weekly after-school lessons at Telstar, thanks to a program organized earlier this fall by local cellist Lee Smith, who

said there are slots available for more students to join after the Christmas break.

The program is being offered under the auspices of the SAD 44 Adult and Community Education program.

Duncan McFarland, who is also employed as the school district's elementary instrumental music instructor, is teaching the violin lessons.

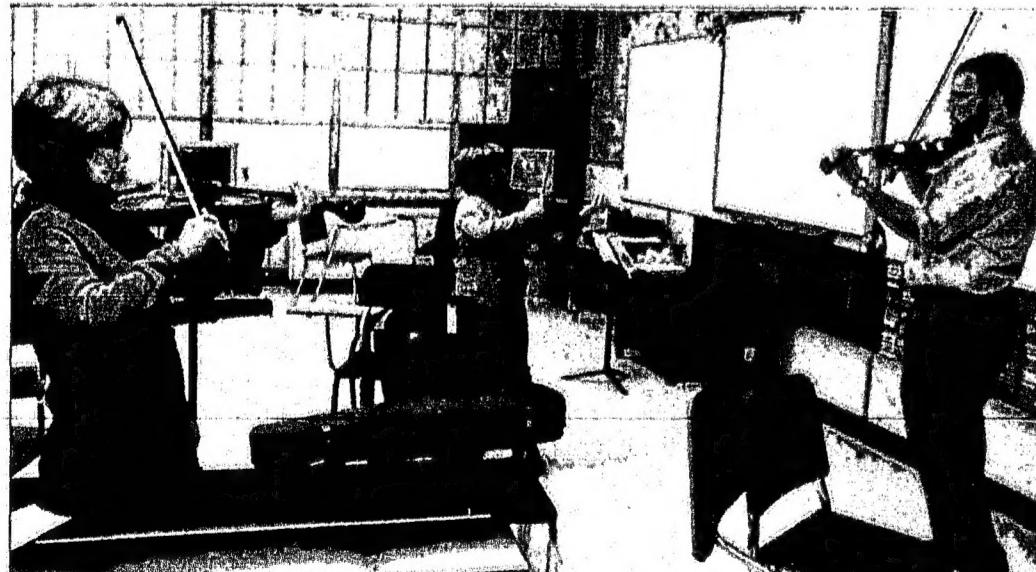
The cello student, ten-year-old William Doyle, receives lessons from Smith,

who herself began playing the cello through a school program when she was in the fourth grade.

Smith obtained the instruments the students are using for lessons from The Gifts of Music, a Bangor-based non-profit which collects, cleans, and restores used musical instruments.

The organization works with private music instructors and school music programs to provide the instruments to students.

See STRINGS, Page 3



Instructor Duncan McFarland teaches violin lessons to middle school students Maecy Dixon and Teddy Doyle.

A. Wight Chapman

Christmas & New Year's HOURS & EARLY AD DEADLINES

The Bethel Citizen will be CLOSED Friday, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

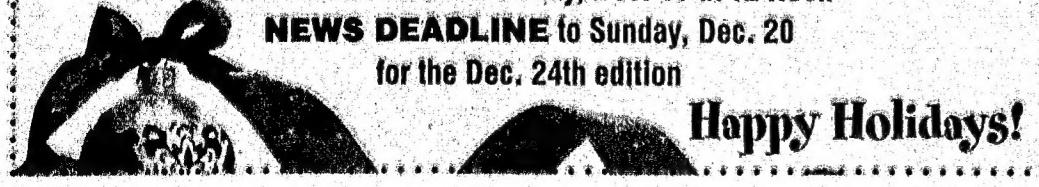
due to the short production time, we've had to move our

AD DEADLINE to Friday, Dec. 18 at 12 Noon

NEWS DEADLINE to Sunday, Dec. 20

for the Dec. 24th edition

Happy Holidays!



New Bethel sewer rates proposed; burden would fall on single family homes

By ALISON ALOISIO

Facing increasing costs and objections from the owners of older apartment buildings, Bethel selectmen Monday voted to recommend a new sewer fees rate structure that would shift some of the increased costs to single family homes with average water usage.

A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Jan. 25.

BACKGROUND

Two years ago the town attempted to update its billing practices and charge older apartments and other older dwelling units individually rather than by building. It would have added 140 more units

to bill. But with a definition for "dwelling unit" that town officials acknowledged was unclear, some of the property owners affected by the billing updates objected, arguing that it

Public hearing
Jan. 25

should also be applied to such buildings as bed and breakfasts and other lodging places, as well as dormitory rooms.

The owners said the rate structure was unfair and bills should simply be

based on volume of water used, rather than on a combination of minimum charge and additional volume used.

The selectmen then voted to suspend the new billing practice until Dec. 31 of this year, in order for a committee to study the problem and come up with a better solution.

Separately, in October, voters rejected a proposed new definition for "dwelling unit" because many felt it was not broad enough to include such places as lodging units and dormitories.

BREAKDOWN
The FY'15 budget for the Waste Water Treatment

See BETHEL, Page 4

Upton selectmen decline to support proposed Umbagog Refuge land purchase

By ALISON ALOISIO

Upton selectmen last week declined to sign a letter of support for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to purchase 4,091 acres of land in the area of B Brook for the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge.

The town officials, who met with Refuge Manager Paul Casey and Tom Bourtureira of the Conservation Fund, expressed concern that too much town land is being bought up by the USFWS.

Bourtureira said the Conservation Fund had bought a larger parcel last year from the Wagner Forest Management LTD, and the 4,091 acres is

part of that. The purchase plan by the USFWS would be to seek funding from the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. In order to be considered for funding in a competitive application process in April, he said, a letter of support would be needed in January.

But town officials balked, citing concerns in town over past purchases and potential ones in the future.

"A lot of people in town feel Upton is going to cease to exist in the next 25 to 30 years because we're getting sucked up by these programs," said Deborah Judkins, who is the town

treasurer but said she was speaking only as a resident. We just don't want to lose what we have as a town. There's a deep fear that we're going to disappear as a town."

There is also concern about the tax impact, as land gets taken off tax rolls. Upton has been losing about \$2,000 annually from land acquired by the refuge that has taken off the tax rolls, according to town officials, and would stand to lose another \$2,000 if the B Brook parcel is added.

The town's current population is approximately 65 people, with the annual amount of taxes col-

See LAND, Page 3

School Board approves D.C. trip for Telstar freshmen

By AMY WIGHT CHAPMAN

The SAD 44 School Board on Monday unanimously approved a five-day field trip to Washington, D.C. for the students and staff of the Telstar Freshman Academy, and authorized spending up to \$7,500 from the Telstar alternative learning account for a portion of the associated costs.

The vote was based on a recommendation from the Education Committee, which reviewed the proposed trip at its meeting earlier in the day.

The trip will be the culmination of a ten-week study unit called Exploration and Discovery, during which students have pursued answers to the questions: "Why do people explore and discover?", "How have exploration and discovery led to continuous learning?", and "How do I explore and make new discoveries that lead to continuous learning?"

Their interdisciplinary study has focused on several areas, including natural history, astronomy and the universe, research and communica-

tion, and careers and civic participation.

Trip agenda

TFA instructor Norm Greenberg said that during the bus ride to Washington, D.C. students will watch documentaries that relate to the educational experiences they will have there, and will also use their time on the bus for independent research projects, personal journaling, and group activities designed to build leadership skills and enhance collaborative problem-solving.

On their first day in Washington, D.C., the students and staff will meet with Sen. Angus King at his office for breakfast. They will then divide into three groups, each of which will concentrate on a different area of learning on each of the three days, participating in activities designed to meet identified learning standards.

One group will spend the first day focusing on natural history, visiting the Museum of Natural History and the National Zoo.

Another will tour the U.S. Capitol with staff from King's office in the

morning and spend the afternoon at the American Art Museum and the American History Museum, as part of their study of humanities.

The third group will tour exhibits at the Air and Space Museum in the morning and visit the Library of Congress in the afternoon.

On the final evening of their stay, the entire group will tour the monuments on the National Mall, including the WWII Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

See SAD 44, Page 5

The Bethel Citizen
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Letters

LIVING NATIVITY CASTING CALL

To the Editor:

It is that time of the year again in which we as a community celebrate the Christmas season in many ways—Country Christmas in Bethel, school programs, church services, caroling, business and family open houses, and the annual Living Nativity, presented on the Common by the people of the community. It is a wonderful opportunity that this community still affords itself, to quietly remember the foundational meaning of Christmas amidst all the hustle and bustle of everything else that has become part of the celebration. How refreshing. How appropriate. What a joyful thing to gather the community around for at this special season of the year.

So, this is the annual call to all who would like to get involved in the presentation again (or for the first time) this year. It takes a lot of people to "pull it off," as we would like to include everyone. We need shepherds, wise men, angels (big and small) and others who can work together with others to fill the cast. We also need community choir members who will sing in the gazebo. Finally, we are also in need of animals (the four-legged kind), sheep, goats, cows or any farm animals.

If anyone would like to be involved at any of these levels, preparation will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 20, at the Bethel Inn Conference Center. So, come, don a costume, grab a shepherd's staff, put on a king's crown, or grow some angel wings and a halo (if for but a short time). We also need a crowd to watch, listen and sing, so come and be part of this special community expression Christmas celebration. The presentation will begin at 5 p.m. on the common, next to the gazebo.

If anyone has questions, or would like to let us know of willingness to help in advance, please call (or leave a message) at 824-2289, Bethel Alliance Church. We'll see everyone on the Bethel Common on the 20th. Merry Christmas!

For more information, call me at 824-2715 or Nancy Bellinger at 824-4567.

Drew Webster
Chair, Living Nativity
Bethel

MOVIE SCREENS UPDATE

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago, we wrote a letter to the editor on a Monday evening detailing our fundraising campaign to upgrade the old Casablanca Cinema in Bethel with a digital projection system. By the time the letter was printed on Thursday, we had met our first goal of raising \$40,000 to convert one theater to digital! We had pre-sold \$20,000 in tickets on Kickstarter, which was generously matched by \$20,000 worth of tickets sold to the Sunday River Ski Resort. Many thanks to Sunday River for the incredible momentum they gave to our campaign and to all of the individuals that supported us early. This community really does want a movie theater!

Our fundraising campaign ends this Sunday, December 20th. We have set a reach goal to raise an additional \$35,500 to cover the cost of upgrading a second theater. With two working theaters, The Gem will be able to offer more diverse programming, increasing the future stability and viability of the theater. Wouldn't it be nice if parents could watch a "grown-up" film in one theater while their kids enjoyed a different movie in the second theater? Having two digital screens means we can show two blockbusters at once, host a film festival, or hold special events with a capacity of up to 312 people.

We are 1,152 tickets away from reaching our second goal! Tickets are \$10 each. Each ticket includes admission to any regularly scheduled movie and a small popcorn, and they don't expire. So far, 381 individuals have purchased movie tickets. We believe many more people in the community would like to see the theater re-open and stay open. If you think you'll go to the movies at least once—we need you to buy your ticket today.

Buy tickets online (www.thegemtheater.com), through our Kickstarter campaign or in person at the theater during our weekend events. This weekend, we've got a packed schedule, starting with a sold-out Polar Express Jammies Party Friday night. The "No Office" Holiday Party starts at 5:30 pm on Saturday, and features the opening of Craig Derek Angevine's photography show "Mahoosuc Dreamscape," two screenings of Warren Miller's new ski film "Chasing Shadows" at 6 and 8 p.m., music by the Shadagee Ramblers, raffles and a cash bar by 22 Broad Street. On Sunday, we're hosting another all-day, holiday movie marathon.

With so much going on, and the future of the theater being so bright, we hope you'll agree that movie tickets make great gifts! (thegemtheater@gmail.com) www.thegemtheater.com)

Beth Weisberger & Wade Kavanaugh
Albany

The Bethel Citizen

PO Box 109 • Bethel, ME 04217 • 207-824-2444

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|--|--|--|
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Deadline for town, club and organizational news items is Monday at 4 p.m. Advertising deadlines: Real Estate and half page ads or larger: Friday, Noon. Display and Classified ads: Monday at 4 p.m.

The publisher reserves the right to reject, or edit any material offered for publication.

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Call (207) 824-2444

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM BETHEL RESCUE

To the Editor:

I'd like to first thank each and every dedicated member of Bethel Ambulance Service for the extraordinary service we provide throughout the year. Your commitment to the residents of Bethel and surrounding communities demonstrates the very best in public service and dedication, and rest assured it doesn't go unnoticed—especially around the holidays.

And to the readers of the Bethel Citizen, know that we have had a very successful year, going above and beyond in the areas of public relations and health promotion. There is a lot to be proud of at the Greenleaf Station, and I would like to take this opportunity to update our neighbors on our major accomplishments in 2015.

Since Jan. 1, we have responded to just over 370 medical emergencies, making 2015 one of our busiest calendar years on record (since 1972!).

We started our year by launching the "Sand for Seniors" program, which was made possible through a generous donation from Western Maine Supply. Since the start of this program, we have been able to leave sand for patients, as well as the Bethel Seniors Group.

Bethel Rescue has provided CPR training to more groups in town than ever before, and the interest in this type of outreach programming seems to keep getting stronger. This training includes certifying the CPS 5th grade last Spring!

Our providers have performed demonstrations at several children's camps and groups, inspiring our next generation of first responders and medical professionals.

We have kept up rigorous continuing education standards, and instituted monthly trainings in order to meet and even exceed the hours needed for recertification at the EMT and Paramedic license levels.

Our presence in the community has also been increased, and we remain one of the only ambulance services in Western Maine which provided medical stand-by event coverage at sports events at no charge. We have continued our attendance at the Bethel Senior Citizens meetings, and distributed glow sticks to the students at Crescent Park to help ensure their safety on Halloween.

We continue to maintain our status as a Heart-safe Community, and we were actually able to move up from Silver to Gold status.

The Bethel Ambulance Service has continued our tradition of giving back to the community by supporting the Christmas for Kids program and through offering financial assistance to a graduating high school senior.

While this snapshot of recent accomplishments is certainly something to be proud of, we have secured grant funds and donations to ensure that 2016 is our most successful year yet. Bethel Rescue will soon be launching programming in order to prevent distracted driving, promote bicycle safety, increase Halloween safety, certify new CPR responders, and deploy additional automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) throughout our response area.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the community outreach which Bethel Rescue provide, please contact me at 881-7452 or through email at hanscom@megalink.net. We are always looking for new ideas and new community partners to support our efforts.

Thank you to our community members who have supported us through direct donations and through support of our fundraising activities. Your help truly does make a difference.

Best wishes for 2016, and warmest regards from all of us at Bethel Ambulance Service.

Chief David T. Hanscom

NHS COLLECTING WINTER GEAR FOR KIDS

To the Editor:

Telstar High School's National Honor Society will be collecting winter gear for children again this season. This includes gently used hats, mittens, coats, scarves, and snow pants.

We have boxes set up in the following locations where you can drop your donations off: Telstar High School, The Little Red Hen Diner in Andover, Woodstock Elementary School, Andover Elementary School, Crescent Park Elementary School, Calvary Bible Church in Andover, The IGA in Bethel, Key Bank in Bethel, and The Gem Theater in Bethel.

Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support in helping us keep children warm this winter!

Cassidy Smith
NHS Secretary

PROPAGANDA RESPONSE

To the Editor:

In response to Seabury Lyon's letter of Dec. 3, he calls the 'conservative propaganda machine dishonest and seditious at heart.'

With all due respect to Mr. Lyon's opinion, has he taken a close look at the Obama machine?

When he was candidate, Obama promised '100 percent transparency in my administration.' However, once in office, he became one of the most secretive and potentially corrupt presidents in history.

He has exploited the use of Executive Orders to circumvent the checks and balances of our Constitution in order to shape our country into his collectivist vision of how he thinks America should be.

He has failed to enforce federal laws against illegal immigration allowing some of the most dangerous criminals to roam our city streets.

He has used the IRS to illegally target the Tea Party and other conservative organizations.

He has tried to use the FCC to restrict the speech of conservatives and political opponents.

He has used the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to attack free enterprise, collect illegal data on U.S. citizens, and tie up businesses in red tape.

He used the Justice Department to fight election integrity by failing to enforce election laws and used the courts to block states from enforcing legally enacted voter ID laws.

Finally, he has granted 'executive amnesty' to millions of illegal aliens that bypasses Congress and we, the American citizens.

The last time I looked, Americans still had the guaranteed right of free speech—and that even extends to Fox News, Limbaugh, Savage, and Beck.

The question is which would prefer? The conservative 'propaganda machine' (as Mr. Lyon calls them) who expound their views openly and legally or someone like Obama whose terms in office have been covered by continuous lies, who acts as if he above any laws, and believes he can do anything to further his radical left agenda—even going so far as to spy on you and me?

Carmine Custaldo
Bethel

WHICH IS IT?

To the Editor:

I always find the tales of the Clintons' supposed 'crimes' humorous. Because if they are true they represent incontrovertible proof of Clinton brilliance and Republican incompetence in prosecuting them over two decades. And if they are not true they demonstrate the right's willingness to believe any lie that backs up their distorted world view. Fess up guys and gals. Which is it? Incompetence or willful ignorance?

I know it's been a long eight years for you folks. The next eight are going to seem like an eternity...

Chandler McGrew
Bethel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. We hope our readers will regard the newspaper as a public forum for discussing any topic they believe to be of interest to the community.

Insofar as possible, we attempt to publish letters without alteration, but we do reserve the right to edit for length, libel, taste and readability. Letters should be limited to 300 words, but that limit will be waived when the situation warrants.

In situations where the letter writer has a political, economic, familial or other relationship that could be perceived as bearing on the topic addressed in the letter, we strongly suggest the writer make that relationship known in the text of the letter or after their signature.

When writing, please include your full name, signature, address and telephone number (so that we may verify authorship).

The deadline for letters to the editor is 4:30 p.m. Monday. Letters submitted after that deadline will be considered for publication when circumstances permit.

Send your letters to: Editor, Bethel Citizen, PO Box 109, Bethel, ME 04217-0109. Fax: 824-2426. E-mail: news@bethelcitizen.com.

Our Back Pages

Donna Brown Nickerson

10 years ago: Jerry Brunnett of Greenwood opened Hard Days N Nights, a music and gift shop featuring more than 35,000 records dating from 1910 through the 1980s.

Births: Jacob Hutton deFrees, Matthew Joseph Lacasse, Brianna Lynn Watrous, Jay Willard Feeney.

Deaths: Donald Thompson, Jr., Willie E. Buck, Stanley E. Coffin, Virginia J. Morton, Emmeline Murphy.

20 years ago: A young moose had been making herself at home in the backyards of Bethel since late November, roaming the area around Paradise Road, Vernon, Broad, and Mason streets.

The Bethel Planning Board gave conditional approval for the third building in the Bethel Station development. The first tenant was to be Norway Savings Bank.

Births: Cassandra Janeen Blaszczak, Skye Kathleen Dole, Christopher Jordan Waterman.

Death: Evelyn B. Reed.

30 years ago: Ruel and Maureen Swain, owners of the Bethel Oil Co., Inc., sold the heating oil portion of the business to Fred Enman, North Waterford, and Dan Connell, Bethel.

Birth: Samuel Craig Boyd, Mandy Lynn Bodwell.

Deaths: Frank C. Morse, Jean Theodore (Ted) Gallant, Leonora F. Knowles, Martin J. Mendoza.

40 years ago: Norman R. Ness, Jr. of Dover, NH, was hired as Bethel's town manager.

Dana Douglass was elected District Supervisor of the Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District for a term of three years.

Births: Joshua Lee Baker, Elizabeth Joanne Gasser.

Death: Gerald Williams.

50 years ago: Lower Sunday Punch, Rocking Chair, and the Mixing Bowl novice slopes of Sunday River Skiway were in daily operation beginning Dec. 17.

The Bethel PTA reported that \$78.25 was realized from the Portland Children's Theater production of the "Wizard of Oz."

Deaths: Richard A. Sullivan, Martin H. Lydon, Harry T. Robinson, Daniel P. Cole.

60 years ago: The area had seen several days of extreme cold with temperature readings as low as 20 below zero accompanied by wind.

Births: Kathy-Jo Morrill, Robin Cole.

Deaths: Hazen A. Sweeney, Thomas A. Conroy, Walter E. Penley.

70 years ago: Bethel Lions Club presented a minstrel show. The cast was coached by David Thompson.

An L-2 Taylorcraft plane from Bangor nosed over in a landing at Bethel Airport. A broken propeller and wing strut were the main damage. The pilot "Slim" Wheeler was not injured.

Deaths: Harold V. Milliet, George Bartlett.

80 years ago: The Lions Club had placed a Christmas Tree on the lower end of the Common, opposite the library building, and planned to distribute candy to the children Dec. 24.

The Wild River CCC orchestra furnished the music for the Christmas tree and entertainment at the Gilead Town Hall.

90 years ago: Central Maine Power Co. was about ready to connect with the local electric system.

Neighborhood socials, featuring music and the playing of Rook, were taking place in the Middle Intervale vicinity every Saturday night.

110 years ago: A "Pie Supper" was held at Pattee Hall.

D

Land

Continued from page 1

lected at between \$170,000 and \$180,000, according to town officials.

But Casey and Bourtureira said their organizations seek to mitigate that impact, and there could be benefit for Upton in the land purchase.

The letter they asked the selectmen to sign was written by Bourtureira, and it said that lost tax revenue could be mitigated through federal road improvement programs, economic development opportunities, recreational infrastructure and other foundation or community support.

An example of a federal road improvements program is a project the parties have been discussing for about a year - a rebuild of a section of the East B Hill Road in Upton that accesses refuge property.

Engineering costs for the project are estimated at \$25,000, with the costs shared among the town, federal and state governments. In this case the federal government would pay Upton's share, town officials said.

But regarding the proposed new land acquisition, Selectman Bob Pepler told the men, "We'd like to work with you, but with today's political climate and the way government is handling situations of late, it's pretty

hard to trust them."

Selectman Joe Bernier said that eight years ago, when the significant expansion of the refuge began, he attended hearings in Augusta to oppose it, "but I realized there was nothing I could do to stop the growth. As a citizen I'm not for this. As a selectmen, I don't see it helps the town in any way."

Selectman Wanda Hall said the timing of the re-

'There's a deep fear that we're going to disappear as a town.'

- Deborah Judkins

quest for support "is way too soon. If we saw something already happening with the road, then maybe."

Casey agreed the timing was not ideal. "If the engineering had been done last year, it would have demonstrated something," he said. He said work on the road project would continue with the hope to "demonstrate the town and the refuge can work together for the benefit of the town."

Pepler said if that is accomplished, "I think that would go a long way."

Casey said that despite

the selectmen's current position on the land proposal, "The opportunity is not necessarily going to go away."

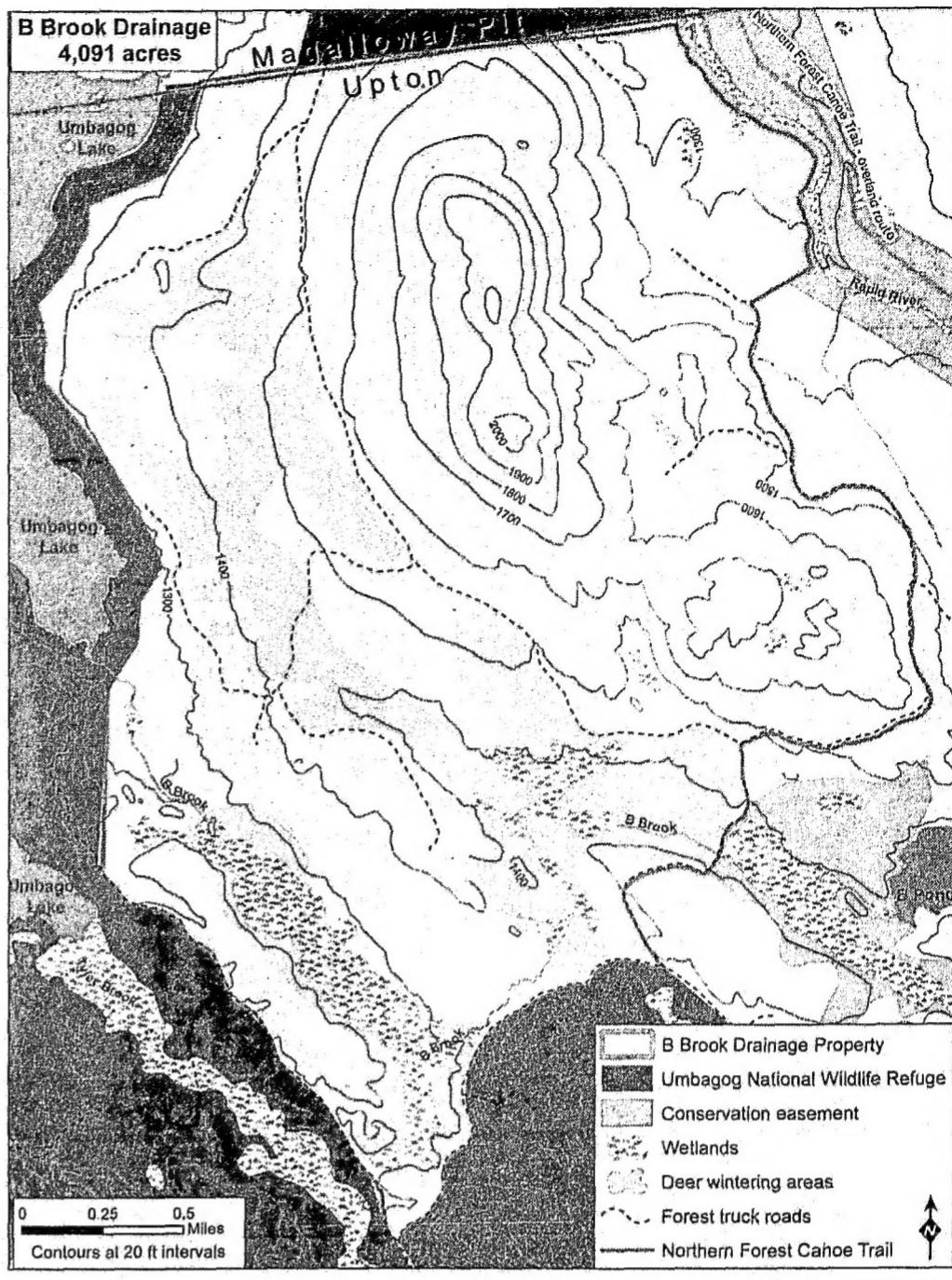
Casey, who lives in Upton, also addressed Judkins' concerns about the town's future.

He said he does not expect the town to be gone in the next two decades. "I think the town has a great future," he said. "I think the development at the Balsams [Resort, in Dixville Notch, N.H.] is going to provide an opportunity for this town to survive. I plan to retire here."

Bourtureira said after the meeting that the Conservation Fund is continuing timber operations on the land it has purchased, with the most recent operation in the winter of 2014-2015. He said the fund pays property taxes on land it owns and manages.

Bourtureira also added that The Conservation Fund has offered to assist Upton with economic development and seek funding for related projects.

"That could take many forms including marketing of the region for tourism and recreation, assistance with recreational trails development and local signage, and working with Maine DOT to improve road signage from the I-95 corridor to the Umbagog area," he said.



Conservation Fund

From the Newry Deputy Town Clerk's Desk

By Kelly Scott

We are happy to welcome Amy Bernard as our new Town Administrator. She comes to us with a great wealth of municipal experience and education. She will begin her tenure with us in January 2016.

The Road Committee held a public meeting on Dec. 9, the purpose of the meeting was to inform the public of the work the committee has been doing and to obtain feedback. There was a good turn-out for the meeting, with a lot of information shared on both sides. The committee will be able to make a plan to move forward to 2016 budget process and create a road proposal to go to town meeting.

The Cemetery Committee submitted their proposed budget for projects in 2016. They are planning to continue the great improvements to our town cemeteries. Thank you for all your hard work this year!

Nomination papers are now available at the town office for the following offices: Selectman/Overseer of the Poor/Assessor 3-year term and SAD 44 School Board Director 3 year term. The deadline to return the nomination papers will be Monday, January 25 by 5 p.m. We have scheduled the annual town meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 8 and the secret ballot election day to be held on Monday, March 7. The time for each day has yet to be determined.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Retta's party. She really appreciated all who stopped by to wish her well, the cards and the gifts. She is with us until December 31st, so there is still time to stop by or give her a call before she leaves for her next adventure.

The Newry Fire Department held their annual Christmas party for the town employees and families. Everyone enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings and deserts. It has become a tradition that instead of buying gifts to exchange, we all donate towards a local charity. This year the FD collected just under \$300 to give to the local Christmas for Families. Thank you NFD for coordinating this great event and everyone who helped.

The town office will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 24. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! Here's your historical tidbit from the Newry Archives: In 1958, the Sunday River Skiway Corporation was formed. Barker Mountain was selected as the site. 1959-1960 winter season, Sunday River was ready with a 300 car parking area, 3200 foot T-bar, 800 foot rope tow, a main lodge, ski shop and cafeteria.

Until next time...stay informed, ask questions and get involved!

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392-2051

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Strings

Continued from page 1

dents as part of its mission to keep music education and performance alive in Maine.

McFarland has taught lessons to middle school and high school students on Thursday afternoons for eight weeks, and recently began teaching a group of three elementary school violinists on Friday afternoons.

Students who signed up for the program in September were asked to commit to eight weeks of lessons, long enough to give them time to find out if they enjoy playing.

All of the original students have decided to continue with their lessons, Smith said.

The program is still looking for additional students, and has more in-

struments available for their use. A new eight-week session will begin in January.

Keeping costs low to open the program to as many students as possible has been a central focus. The donation of instruments has removed one major cost barrier many families considering music lessons face, and the program has been able to offer the lessons at an affordable price.

Smith said that as long as there are three or four students in a class, the cost for group lessons is just \$60 for an eight-week term, with a small one-time materials fee to cover such items as rosin, shoulder rests, and instructional books.

Private or semi-private lessons may be available

for an increased cost.

Smith said there is also a possibility of a sponsorship for lessons for a Woodstock resident, should there be an inter-

ested student from that town.

For more information, contact Lee Smith at 824-3491 or lsmith@marke.com.

*...for we have seen his star in the east,
and are come to worship him:
Matthew 2:2*

CHRISTMAS services

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Candlelight

Christmas Eve Service:

December 24 • 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

DECEMBER 24

4 & 8 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church

35 Paris Street, Norway

207-743-6782

7 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

34 Buckfield Rd., So. Paris

743-6906

West Parish Congregational Church UCC

32 Church Street, Bethel

207-824-2689

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. with Bell Choir

7:00 p.m. Candlelight

Our Lady of Snows

Walkers Mills Road, Bethel

6:30 p.m.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

The stone church at the rotary in Rumford

Christmas Eve Service:

with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.

The Reverend Edward Greene officiating.

Parish of the Holy Savior

St. Athanasius & St. John Church

126 Main Avenue, Rumford

4 p.m.

Christmas Day (Rumford)

9:30 a.m.

Celebrate The Holidays At The Inn

Enjoy our beautifully prepared holiday menus,
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Christmas Eve

Carolof & Refreshment: 5-6pm

Sleigh Rides: 5-7:30pm Dinner: 5:30-9pm

A grand holiday buffet with entrees including:

Smoked Bacon and Apple Stuffed Chicken, Apricot Pork

Loin, Mediterranean Shrimp Couscous, Braised Angus Short

Ribs, Spinach and Pumpkin Risotto

Christmas Day

Sleigh Rides: 5pm-7:30pm Buffet: 5:30pm-9pm

A grand Christmas buffet with traditional entrees including:

Hickory Smoked Ham, Herb marinated Turkey Breast,

Salmon and Smoked Scallop Roulade, Marcarpone and

Pumpkin Ravioli

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Dinner & Dancing - All for just \$59.99 per person

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Country Lamb Rack, Baked Stuffed Lobster

Wild Mushroom Cannelloni

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MAINE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Interdenominational Worship

with Rev. Don Coverdale

and Gospel Singer Cynthia Clark-Bulgar

Dec. 24 at 7:30 pm

Sunday River Resort - Barker Mountain Lodge

3rd floor in front of fireplace

Sponsored by: Sunday River Christian Ministry

17
2015

Briefly

Selectmen approve land sale

WOODSTOCK-The Board of Selectmen unanimously voted Tuesday evening to accept a \$38,000 bid for a 50-acre woodlot on Billings Road. Town Manager Vern Maxfield said the lot was acquired for back taxes in 1999. Board of Selectmen Chairman Ron Deegan said Concord River Holdings LLC, an out-of-state company run by Christian Mata, offered \$38,000 to purchase the lot and offered a check for 10 percent up-front with the bid. "This is a really good bid for us," Deegan said. "I see no reason why we shouldn't accept it." The board voted 3-0 to accept the bid.

Bethel

Continued from page 1

Plant was \$386,840.

The rate structure in effect for that budget charged a minimum quarterly fee of \$121 for 1,500 cubic feet of minimum usage, even though some users may use significantly less. Usage above that minimum is billed at just over .08 cents a cubic foot.

The average usage by single-family residences in Bethel is 900 cubic feet per year, according to town officials.

Samples of annual total costs under the current rates were provided by the committee Monday. A residence with the average annual usage of 900 cubic feet pays about \$506 a year; a residence with average usage of 1,500 cubic feet pays about \$970.

Had the new billing practice not been suspended and 140 other units been added for billing, a residential customer from that group with three additional units in a building would have paid \$1,876.

NEW PLAN

The FY'16 WWTP approved budget is \$476,380 (beginning July 1 of this year), about \$89,000 more than last year.

Under the new proposed rate structure, the minimum fee would change, to be based on 500 cubic feet of usage. There would be a quarterly "base pipe fee" of \$100. Buildings with additional units would have

an "additional unit fee" of \$50 per unit. A "ready to serve" fee of \$10 would be applied to hookups not currently being used.

For use over the minimum charges, the per-cubic-foot assessment would rise to .12 cents.

As a result, for the new budget year, a residence using 900 cubic feet annually would pay about \$592, up \$85; one using 1,500 cubic feet would pay \$880, down \$90; and the residential/additional units building would pay \$1,384, down \$493.

Resident Bud Kulik said of the proposal, "This is all well and good for the apartment owners, but mom and pop, two people living in a house in town, get to augment the apartment owners. So let's put the screws to mom and pop again here."

Selectman Peter Southam served on the fees committee. The proposal, he acknowledged, "is a concession to people with multiple units. It puts the burden on to single family homes. It's a matter of who you think should be paying. You're asking the residents to subsidize the businesses. The people who can most easily change their income as a result of this are the people who can charge more rent."

"People can't pay their rent now," objected multi-unit owner Mark Bennett. He asked why the rates could not be set based on usage alone. (The figures listed above would be \$560, \$933 and \$747, respectively, under such a scenario.)

Southam said that while that might be a fair approach, "one reason we didn't want to go there is that one of the problems of the treatment plant is not enough customers, not enough volume. Rewarding people for reducing their output would be counterproductive. It doesn't change the cost of the sewer treatment plant."

He said the plan the selectmen will recommend "moves us closer to usage."

Southam added that he believes Gould Academy and the Bethel Inn would pay significantly more under the proposal.

He said the cost per cubic foot is not what is driving the cost of the plant. "It's the debt service and a whole lot of fixed costs," said Southam.

The board voted unanimously to support the proposal.

The public hearing on Jan. 25 will begin at 7 p.m. at the Town Office. After getting input, the board will decide what the rate structure will be. It will go into effect for billing that starts the quarter beginning Jan. 1.

Community celebrates The Andy Project



By Maria Holloway

More than 100 people filled the Sunday River Brew Pub in Bethel last Thursday to celebrate The Andy Project. Lead contractor Howard Bailey, over 60 volunteers, and more than 20 suppliers were recognized with frequent enthusiastic applause and a standing ovation in a show of appreciation for the work the many helping hands have contributed to building a new, wheelchair accessible home for Andy Barlow. The project, which began at Barlow's Main St. property in Hanover this summer, is nearing completion and Andy is expected to move in within the next few weeks.

Emcee for the evening, Kate Carroll, introduced each of the honorees who came to the stage to accept a gift and receive a handshake from Andy as an expression of his deep gratitude for all they have done. The recipients were designated as the Town of Hanover's 2015 Volunteers of the Year and the Town provided commemorative mugs with the words imprinted "Many Hands for Andy's House".

The evening began with Rumford firefighter, Ben Byam, weighing out for his challenge to lose 30 pounds which began on September 24. Byam tipped the scales at 300 pounds in September to start the challenge. He officially weighed out with witnesses on November 21, 2015 at the Library in Hanover at 265 pounds having lost 35 pounds and then decided to continue the challenge and weighed out once more at the celebration losing an additional 6 pounds for a grand total of 41 pounds. Now at a "svelte" 259, Byam raised over \$3000 for the cause and says he feels great. Throughout his challenge he received overwhelming support from his wife Samantha and children Jonah, Julien and Melina, as well as from the communities of Rumford, Newry, Hanover and Bethel who

have been cheering him on for the past 2 months.

Following the weigh-out, Peter Therriault, Trustee for the Andy Fund, gave a brief overview of the financial status stating that, to date, over \$28,000 have been raised in private donations including over \$17,000 from the two recent fundraisers in the local community - Pie Night in Hanover and the Benefit Auction in Bethel. Wendy Cavers, a long-time friend of Andy's, told the story of how she had a dream to build Andy an "accessible, healthy" home and expressed her gratitude for having her prayers finally answered. Howard Bailey of Andover Log Homes, who is leading the project, was called to the stage and received a spirited standing ovation from the crowd. A quiet humble man, Bailey stepped forward this past spring to volunteer his time as contractor and has miraculously garnered many other volunteers and suppliers to donate labor, equipment and supplies to build the home. He gave an update on the construction of the home and was presented with a gift - a "Home Sweet Andy Home" t-shirt finally designed especially for the project.

The event was a time of celebration for all and expressions of gratitude and tears of joy continued throughout the evening. The following individuals and companies were acknowledged for their contribution to this historic community project and we thank them for having given so much in support of a most deserving member of our community.

Construction Volunteers: Don Ballute, Peter Barlow, Lori Beaudoin, Dave Berry, Scott Berry, Greg Bove, Rob Brennan, Dave Brown, Dean Brown, Mike Brown, Rene Burdette, Alex Burns, Bill Burns, Chuck Butman, Wendy Cavers, John Connell, Eric Davis, Brian Douglas, Mark Duhamel, Chris Durante, Dick Fecteau, Jeff Fleet, Joe Ga-

gnon, Robin Gilbert, Brian Gross, Jeff Hutchins, Tony Lawless, Rock Libby, Matt Ludden, Kenny Magoon, Eric Marchand, Ken Marchand, Bruce Miles, Tim Miles, Brook Morton, Chris Noetzel, Steve Peltier, Patty Riemensneider, Craig Ryerson, Peter Therriault, Doug Zinchuk.

Suppliers and Community Supporters: Agren Appliance, American Concrete, Bosch Buderus Heating, C&C Insulation, Central Maine Power, Community Energy, Constructive Solution, D.A. Wilson Co., Dimension Lumber, Doyon Septic, Fields Plumbing & Heating, Hot Colors, Macintosh & Co., Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation, Main-Land Development Consultants,

Morgan Concrete, Overhead Door Co., Parent Lumber, Presby Steel, Region 9 Woodworking Class, Rooster's Roadhouse, Royal Flooring, Savage Construction, Steve Pelletier Custom Built Homes, Sunday River Brewing Company, Telstar Interact, Town of Hanover, Ward Lumber Western Maine Supply.

Fundraising Team: Gardner Robert Memorial Library Trustees, Dottie Adams, Darlene Baker, Paulette Booth, Dan Force, Elaine Goucher, Maria Holloway, Gail Parent, Lynne Ramsey, Bob and Peg Susbury, Amy Verrill, The Byam Family - Ben, Samantha, Jonah, Julien and Melina, Kate & Ron Carroll, Wendy Cavers, John Crouch, Steve Etheridge, Amy Halsted, Peter Holloway and Peter Therriault.

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation please visit www.TheAndyProject.com or contact Maria Holloway at HanoverMENews@gmail.com. Andy Project commemorative t-shirts, with include a message from Andy and his signature, are available for sale at the Hanover Town Office or Gardner Roberts Memorial Library.

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The Bethel Citizen

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The Way I See It

by Sharon Bouchard



It's that time of the year for the annual search for the perfect Christmas tree.

As some of my faithful readers may recall from columns of Christmases past, I am very much a Christmas tree snob.

I have been known to put family members in a bah humbug mood by having them stand around in the frigid cold, sometime snow, holding up tree after tree. They would smile thinking they held the perfect gem to please me only to hear me say, "Too big, too small, too full, not full enough, not shaped right, I don't like it."

There were times when I got the strong impression that rather than to tie my perfect Christmas tree to the roof of the family car, they would have preferred to tie me to the roof of the family car.

Once the tree was dragged into the house and secured in a stand, not always an easy task, my Christmas tree snobbery kicked into second gear. I always had a vision of exactly how the tree was to be decorated.

I would strive to distribute the lights so they were perfect from top to bottom with no areas left in the dark. That may not sound like much of a job, but I can assure you that it can be hell and my holiday spirit and good cheer have been, on occasion, known to be mixed with some

cuss words that would make a sailor blush.

After the lights are exactly as I want them I hang my beautiful and delicate ornaments. The goal here is to hang them in perfect symmetry.

Being a mother who loves her children very much I always praised them for the ornaments they made in school with Styrofoam, construction paper and glitter. As they

The goal here is to hang them in perfect symmetry.

didn't exactly fit in with my perfectly decorated tree I tried hanging these funky ornaments towards the back of the tree. Sometimes they always ended up in the front.

I could deal with the handmade ornaments, but the construction paper chains, seemingly with more black and orange than red and green were a problem for me.

Please don't think of me as a selfish bad parent; I did hang whatever the kids made for me, but I was going for the most beautiful Christmas tree in the world. A decorated

tree worthy of a room in a Victorian mansion would not have construction paper chains.

Well, that was then and this is now and I am no longer a Christmas tree snob. Now I just want to get the tree up and let the lights and ornaments fall where they may. It is, after all, just a Christmas tree and not a centerpiece to be judged.

My kids and even my grandkids have outgrown making ornaments, but I still hang the ones I have accumulated over the years. In fact, I hang them with great reverence. A Styrofoam ball covered with glitter that my son made when he was six and I always tried to hang in the back of the tree completely fell apart last year. Then I fell apart and cried most of the day.

I have an angel that my daughter made from flour and water when she was eight. She painted the angel with some pretty garish colors and was more often than not placed in the back of the tree. Now a wing is broken on the angel, not my daughter, but I hang it front and center every year.

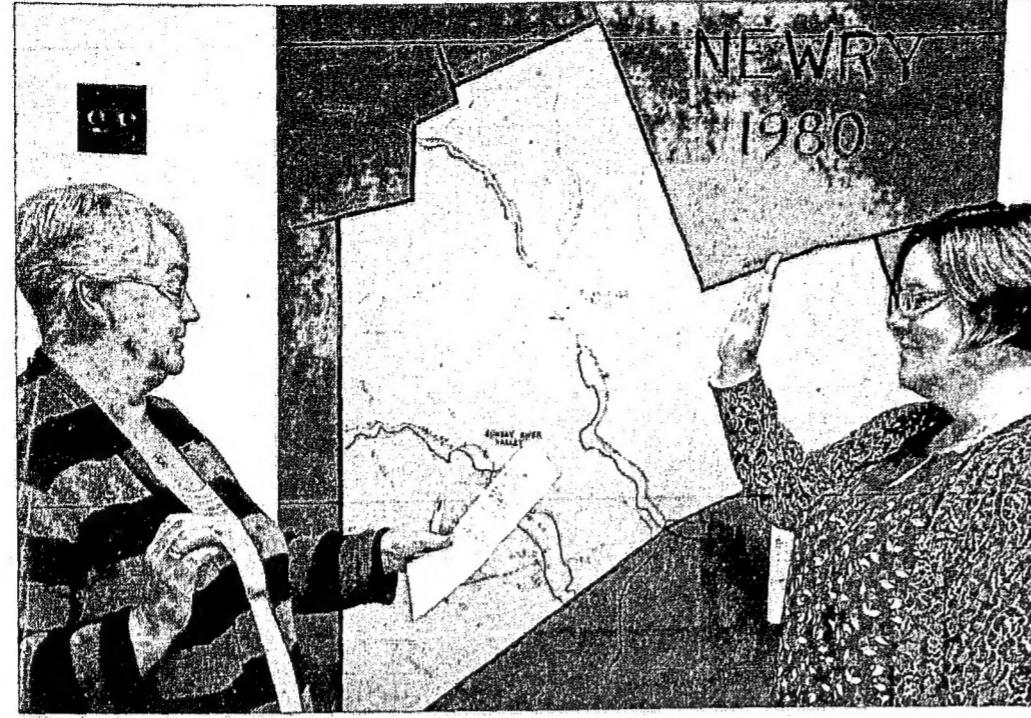
I may no longer have the Victorian mansion perfect Christmas tree (actually, I never did), but the way I see it with all the funky ornaments my children and grandkids have made for me I truly do have the perfect Christmas tree.

D
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C

Thursday, December 17, 2015

The Bethel Citizen

Page 5



CHANGING OF THE GUARD-Outgoing Newry Town Administrator Loretta Powers, left, swears in Amy Bernard after Tuesday's selectmen's meeting.

Amy Bernard appointed as Newry town administrator

By ALISON ALOISIO

Newry selectmen unanimously voted Tuesday to appoint Amy Bernard of Rumford as the town's next town administrator, succeeding the departing Loretta Powers. Bernard will start Jan. 1 at a salary of \$60,000, which will be reviewed in six months, and annually thereafter. The appointment is for three years.

Bernard, a Rumford native, has served as the town manager of Paris for the past three years, and before that as town manager in Wayne.

She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine at Farmington and a master's in public administration from the University of Maine. She served a one-year internship in Barre, Vt., she said.

Asked about her administration style, Bernard said, "I'm a teambuilder."

She offered several comments from her seat in the audience during a board discussion on steps to take to plan and fund road improvements on about 15,000 feet of the Sunday River Road. A town roads committee met last week to discuss the issue, concluding that a 22-foot-wide paved surface, with a two-foot shoulder to allow for bicycles, would be the best option. A rough estimate for the work could run around \$830,000, town officials said. Committee member Jim Sysko, who is an engineer, said the current road base is in good shape and a full engineering plan might not be necessary, saving the town money.

Bernard said the town should get specifications for the road if a bond is sought for funding, and that would be done by an engineer. But she estimated it should not cost more than about \$10,000. She also said that if the town is considering a bond for the work, going to a bank, rather than a bond bank, would be an option and would allow the town to pay off a loan sooner if selectmen wished, rather than having to stick to the required schedule of paying back through a bond bank. She added that now is a good time to borrow, with interest rates at 2-3 percent.

The selectmen agreed to take a request for an engineering evaluation/estimate to the annual March Town Meeting.

OCSD Patrol Log

Wednesday, Dec. 9

At 8:30 a.m. Cpl. George Cayer received a report of a vehicle all over the road on Route 26 in Bethel. The vehicle was located and stopped. The driver had not been drinking. Some issues were found on the vehicle and a warning was issued.

At 12:52 p.m. Deputy Andy Whitney looked into a possible marijuana grow in Bethel. It appeared to be legal but an investigation was ongoing.

Thursday, Dec. 10

At 10:15 a.m. Deputy Dere MacDonald responded to the West Bethel Post Office for a property damage crash.

Friday, Dec. 11

At 11:26 a.m. Deputy Dere MacDonald responded to Telstar for a report of two students who left the campus. They returned eventually and the deputy assisted with the investigation.

At 4:07 p.m. Deputy Steve Witham and Cpl. Chancey Libby did a bail check on a subject in Bethel who was on bail for aggravated trafficking in heroin. Nothing was found.

At 11:35 p.m. Deputy Josh Aylward took a report of multiple shots fired behind a residence on the Songo Pond Road. The area was checked and nothing suspicious was found.

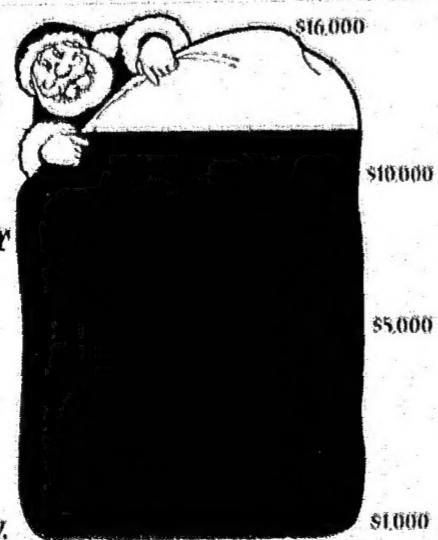
At 8 p.m. Deputy Dere MacDonald took a report of a theft of a laptop. A student had refused to return the laptop, belonging to the school district.

Monday, Dec. 14

At 2:50 p.m. Deputy Andy Whitney ran a traffic detail on Route 26 in front of Telstar High School. One vehicle was stopped and given a warning for an expired inspection sticker.

Christmas For Children

The Bethel Rotary Club has raised \$11,938 toward their goal of \$16,000. To be used to purchase toys for needy boys & girls in our community.



Contributions may be mailed to:

**Bethel Rotary Club • Christmas for Children
PO Box 471 • Bethel, ME 04217**

Deadline to apply is December 18. All applications will be kept confidential.

SAD 44

Continued from page 1

"The students will be experiencing a sense of wonder as they step out of a classroom and walk back in time through our nation's history, literally and figuratively," said Greenberg.

Students and staff will stay at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD, where they will receive a special rate for lodging because of TFA's association with the 4-H program.

TFA instructor Tara Pocock told the board that she grew up in a small town in rural northern Maine. When she was 15, she said, she visited Washington, D.C. with her class.

"The experiences that I had there were first-time experiences," Pocock said. "They really opened my eyes to what was possible in the world, to what else was out there."

Bethel director Tim Carter commented that the trip might be more enjoyable if it were delayed until March, when better weather could be expected in Washington, D.C. The students and staff plan a visit to the University of Maine in March, and Carter wondered if the timing of the two trips could be switched.

Science teacher Kelly Dole said the trip to Washington, D.C. was planned to coincide with the end of the Exploration and Discovery unit, and to take place during a period when the TFA will be based at Telstar for several weeks before returning to the 4-H Camp in late winter.

In addition, there is much less competition with other school groups for programs and tours in

January.

"Every single program we wanted to do has already been booked for March, April, and May," she said.

Individual choice

In response to a question from Greenwood director Larry Merlino, Dole said the decision on whether or not to participate in the trip is up to individual families of ninth graders. She said the staff has developed a curriculum for students who do not participate that mirrors, as closely as possible, the content of the learning experiences taking place on the trip.

Superintendent David Murphy told the board that the total cost of the Washington, D.C. trip is approximately \$24,000, but that funding support has been received from the Gear Up grant, Sunday River, Project Opportunity, and parents of ninth graders, and is also expected from Rotary and 4-H. He estimated that those funding sources will provide a combined \$17,000 to \$18,000.

Parents are being asked to contribute what they can to the cost of the trip. Telstar Principal Cheryl Lang said a letter about the trip had gone home to parents recently, and 19 responses had been received to date. At least \$350 has been raised toward the cost from the 17 families who said their children would participate.

CPS Playground

The Facilities Committee was scheduled to meet Wednesday and planned to discuss safety concerns and replacement options for the playground structures at Crescent Park School.

Built more than 20 years ago, the structures are made of pressure-treated

lumber, which is no longer used for playground equipment because it contains arsenic. In addition, the wood has degraded to the point where splinters are a common occurrence among children playing on the structures.

Murphy said that there are now 100 fewer students at CPS than at the time that the playgrounds were installed, and therefore replacing the two separate playgrounds with a single playground may be a feasible option.

"We're looking at this as a high priority," he said, adding that the committee hopes to have recommendations for the board as soon as next month.

TFA presentation

Prior to the board's vote on the field trip, three ninth grade students described some of the benefits they had derived from their participation in the Telstar Freshman Academy.

The students identified the learning environment, which they said allows teachers and students to get to know each other well and to identify projects that best suit different learning styles, as well as the opportunities for unique learning experiences and independent work.

One ninth grader said the "rec block" between classes gives students "a chance to relax, get some energy out, and be ready and focused for our next class."

Another praised the bonding that takes place at the TFA, saying of the staff, "they really push us to bond with everyone, even people that we haven't before...I feel a lot more comfortable with my peers through this program."

Notes from the Gilead selectmen's meeting

Dec. 9, 2015

The Board of Selectmen met at 6 p.m. at the Town Office on Dec. 9. Officers present were: The three Selectmen-Jeremy Morin, Steve McLain, Alfred Leighton; Tax Collector/Admin. Asst., Judy Perrille. The Town Clerk/Treasurer/Registrar of Voters, Linsley Chapman was unable to attend.

Treasurer Warrants were reviewed. November Wrap-Up Warrant 11A: Vote: Moved and seconded to accept. All three selectmen voted in favor. December Warrant 12: Vote: Moved and seconded to accept. All three selectmen voted in favor.

Since there will be only

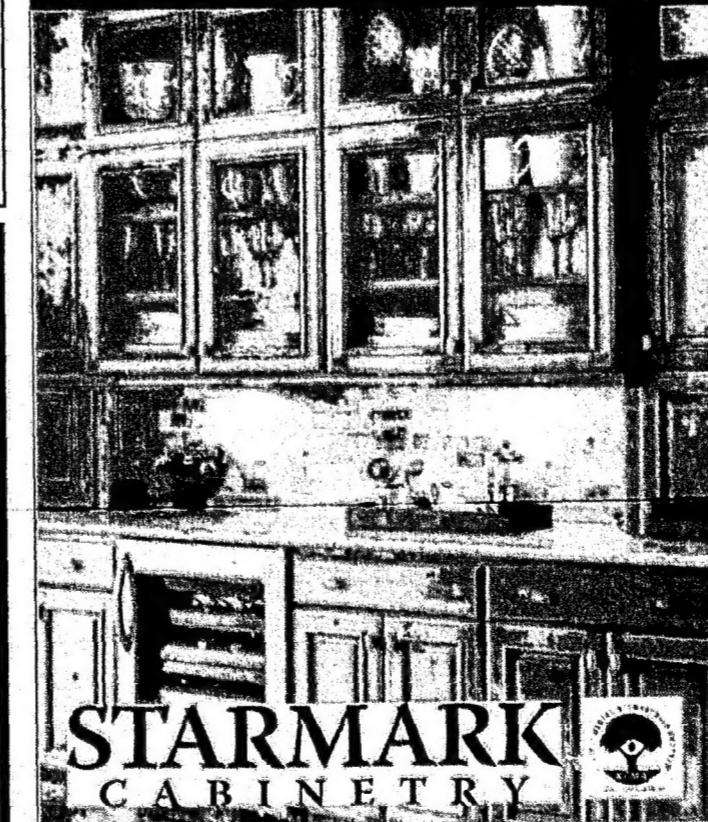
one more Treasurer's Warrant to wrap up the bills for 2015, most of the yearly amounts were included on Warrant 12.

Discussion Regarding: End of the year and getting ready for Town Meeting. Information on account balances to plan the budget for 2016. Compiling Annual Town Report. Result: At the request of the selectmen, the Administrative Assistant will begin gathering information and planning the annual town report.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

(Linsley Chapman, Town Clerk, is writer of these notes from minutes taken by Judy Perrille.)

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CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP \$7 A BLEND OF MUSHROOMS AND HERBS SAUTÉED INTO A RICH CREAMY CREATION
MAINE CRAB CAKES \$9 ROCK CRABMEAT HAND FORMED, SAUTÉED AND SERVED WITH SAUCE REMOULADE
BAKED BRIE \$8 BABY BRIE WRAPPED IN A PUFF PASTRY TOPPED WITH TOASTED ALMONDS AND RASPBERRY COULIS

ENTREES
PRIME RIB \$28 (KING CUT), \$25 (QUEEN CUT) SERVED EITHER AS A "KING" CUT OF 12 OUNCES OR AS A "QUEEN" CUT OF 10 OUNCES, AU JUS
ROAST LAMB \$24 TENDER ROASTED LAMB TOP SEASONED WITH THYME, ONION, OTHER HERBS AND SPICES AND FINISHED WITH AN APPLEMINT DEMI-GLACE
ROASTED DUCK \$27 ONE HALF OF A PLUMP DUCKLING ROASTED AND SERVED SEMI-BONELESS, TOPPED WITH A MAINE MAPLE SYRUP AND WILD BLUEBERRY GLAZE.

MUSHROOM LASAGNA \$18 GRILLED POTATO PANCAKES SANDWICHED WITH A COMBO OF FRESH SAUTÉED SHITAKE, BUTTON AND PORTABELLA MUSHROOM IN A RICH CREAM SAUCE WITH BELL PEPPERS, ONIONS AND TOMATOES
BAKED Haddock \$21 FRESH Haddock SERVED WITH RICE AND VEGETABLE

CHICKEN MARSALA \$18 TENDER CHICKEN MEDALLIONS SAUTÉED WITH MUSHROOMS AND MARSALA WINE IN A LIGHT BROWN SAUCE OVER A BED OF LINGUINI

VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS \$6
PROFITEROLE FILLED WITH HOMEMADE ICE CREAM DRAPED IN CHOCOLATE GANACHE CHEESECAKE WITH RASPBERRY COULIS CRÈME BRÛLEE

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PUB
THUR. DEC 17 * 9PM: HOOT NITE W/DENNY BREAU
FRI. DEC. 18 * 8PM: JORDAN KAULBACK
SAT. DEC. 19 * 8PM: DOUG ALFORD
SUN. DEC. 20 * 1PM: PATRIOTS ON THE BIG SCREEN
THUR. DEC. 24 * 8PM: HOOT NITE W/DENNY BREAU
SAT. DEC. 26 * 8PM: MITCH ALDEN
SUN. DEC. 27 * 8PM: MITCH ALDEN
MON. DEC. 28 * 8PM: DENNY BREAU
TUES. DEC. 29 * 8PM: MITCH ALDEN
WED. DEC. 30 * 8PM: MITCH ALDEN
THUR. DEC. 31 * 8PM: HOOT NITE W/DENNY BREAU

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Bethel

By DON BENNETT

Veterans Park Committee Meeting
The Bethel area veterans committee has received the deed for the land behind the Civil War Soldier Monument. Eleven members of the committee met on Wednesday, Dec. 9 to discuss the next steps toward turning the site into a Veterans Park.

The Civil War soldier monument was completed and dedicated in 1908.

Saturday the Maine Line Products Locke's Mills store held an open house. It had attracted nearly a parking lot full of cars at the time I passed by in early afternoon.

Looking for a place for community events? This month the Moses Mason House has seen a full schedule of community activities.

These groups and events have met or are scheduled: The Senior College, Red House home owners group, Dean Bennett's book launch on the 19th and it will be followed by the "afterglow" Living Nativity gathering on Sunday the 20th.

Christmas shopping at Philbrook Place
Bethel Toys and Trends - quality classic toys - a great selection of classic books for children and much more.

Elements Art Gallery - All things Maine made. Community Sports - pre-owned skis, sports and ice skate rentals.

Revival Boutique - men's and women's new and lightly used consignment clothing, accessories and unique finds.

Philbrook Place is open every day 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Main Street's Newest Enterprise Opened Saturday

Art @ 57 MAINe owned by Donna D'Aquino and Lauren Head opened today in their very newly spiffed up studio, workshop and gallery in the "Jim Mann" building.

Ms. D'Aquino's "Partner in Crime" Reny Caldwell did all the work in remodeling and painting for the art shop's new look. Their layout is located in the middle section of the building.

Also note the new railing and decking as you enter their gallery - just finished improvements by Mr. Caldwell.

The Birchmont Farm Bridge, known as the Smith Farm Bridge

Saturday I drove up the Flat Road in West Bethel to get a photo of the new bridge built this past summer which replaced the existing bridge on the road to the former Smith Farm. Members of the Smith family would like to see the bridge renamed to the Birchmont Farm Bridge which the farm was called when Edmund Smith took it over.

The bridge is only a few yards from the Mason/Bethel line. Before that it had been owned by the

Bean family of which Alpheus Bean had basically been the notable developer of the West Bethel center - hotel, homes, stores and mills and major contributor to the building of the village Union Church - in the last quarter of the 19th Century.

Charles Dunham - Soldier, Sailor, Lighthouse Keeper and West Bethel farmer

About nine years ago in preparing an 1894 Journals page for the Internet I saw a West Bethel news item in a county newspaper that reported Charles Dunham had added to his heard of Jersey cows (presumably to increase his milk and cream for sale to Bethel's creamery then only two years old) located on Church Street where the Gould field house is today.

Nearly a year later, to my amazement, I got an e-mail from a woman in New Jersey who had a used book business. She had found my Webpage that mentioned Charles Dunham and contacted me because she had a book that had belonged to the Dunhams. It was what is known as a scrap book - a book used to paste in family news and doings.

After getting my reply she mailed the book to me and I sent it to the Bethel Historical Society collections.

The Dunhams lived on a farm homestead which is now owned by Bob Everett located just past the Grover Hill Road intersection on the Flat Road.

In looking further into the Dunham family history I found that he had been a lighthouse keeper at the Egg Rock Lighthouse near Nahant in Massachusetts. Lapham's Bethel History notes that Charles Dunham was born in Hartford. After his first wife died he married Mary Mills, daughter of Nathan Mills of Mason.

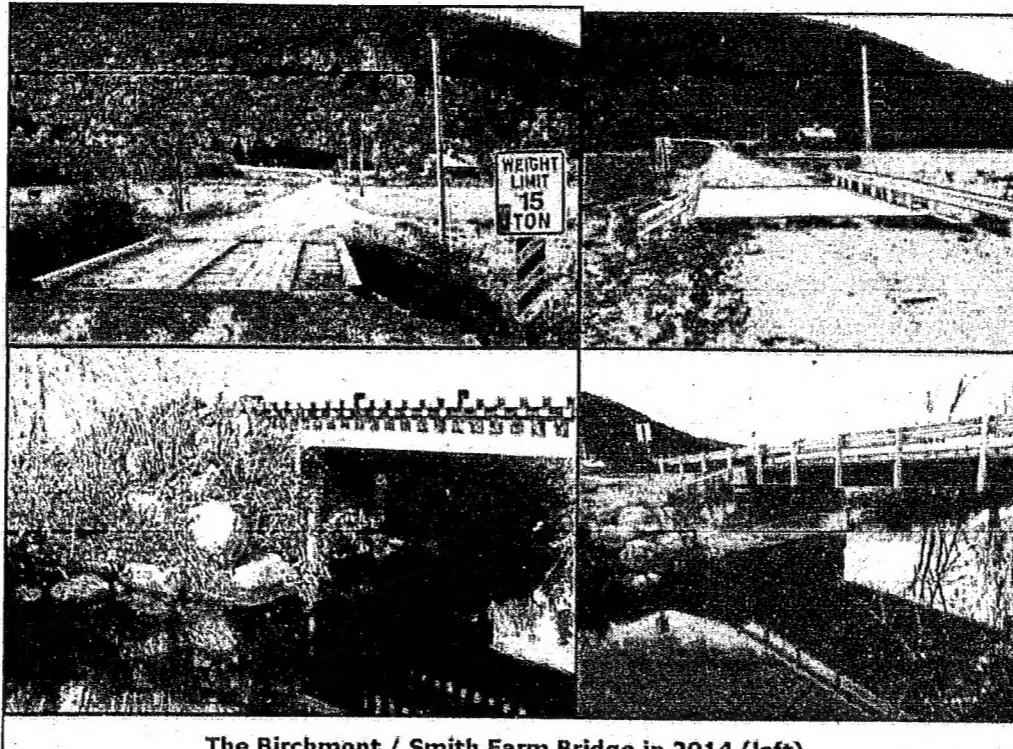
Charles Dunham's grave stone in the Mason cemetery shows he served in Co I, 5th Me Regt during the Civil War.

I believe I found that later he worked at the Twin Lighthouses located on Thatcher Island off Rockport, Mass. and then in 1883 had become lighthouse keeper at Egg Rock. In his notes, Dunham wrote that in August 1884 he went to the shore in Nahant and it was the first time his Mary had a shore visit since September 1883. In 1885 their daughter Ada was born at the light house.

Charles Dunham and family left lighthouse duty in 1889 due Charles Dunham's illness.

After the news in 1894 of Charles Dunham acquiring more Jersey cows the next two news items came out first in 1896 when the Pleasant Valley Grange met in their hall for a regular meeting to install officers and Charles Dunham was installed as Master.

In 1897, Pleasant Valley Grange met to elect officers. Charles Dunham was elected Overseer and his wife Mary was elected Chaplain.



The Birchmont / Smith Farm Bridge in 2014 (left) and the new bridge (right) constructed in 2015.

Bethel

By NANCY BROWN



I love this time of year; the lights, the food, the different customs and traditions celebrated during the month.

Charles Dickens, who wrote A Christmas Carol, described this season as "A good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one accord to open their hearts up freely, and think of other people... as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys." Dickens called his philosophy the "Carol Philosophy" after A Christmas Carol. He tried to spread that philosophy by working for social reforms and giving to charities. Many holidays are celebrated in December: St. Lucia's Day, Diwali, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. No matter what custom or tradition we celebrate, I hope we all take time to think about and put into practice Dicken's philosophy.

More on the holiday lights around Bethel. My mother and I drove around the Middle Intervale-East Bethel Road loop on Sunday night to view the lights. There are some stunning displays, including the 60-foot blue spruce tree in front of Bob and Linda Howe's house on the Intervale Road. The tree is covered with colored lights, topped with a crown of white bulbs.

The Bethel Library is decorated for the holidays. Two stained glass Christmas quilts by Pat McCartney hang above the fireplace in the front reading room. Holiday books (both fiction and nonfiction) are on display and can be checked out.

The annual Living Nativity will be held on the Bethel Common on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m. The Living Nativity has been a Bethel tradition since it was first performed in 1964. It features a live chorus and narration as local people (not actors) and animals reenact the birth of Jesus. If you have never attended the Living Nativity, this is the year to go. I have stood on the Common in snow and ice and bundled up in triple layers

of clothing to watch the performance. This year the forecast is for temperatures in the mid-thirties. Following the performance everyone is invited to the Moses Mason House for refreshments.

What is the best holiday gift this year? Maybe it's the price of gasoline. Do you remember what we were paying at the pump last year? In Bethel the third week of December 2014 a gallon of regular unleaded gas cost between \$2.64 and \$2.79. Today (Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015) gas was selling for \$2.17 a gallon at the Citgo station on Railroad Street; even lower at the Shell, Irving, and Mallard Mart stations where it was \$2.15 a gallon.

If you have news to share, please e-mail me at brown-nancy1950@gmail.com.

West Bethel

By KAREN PAUL

Gerry borrowed a H a v e - a - Heart trap from Ernie in Berlin and set it up with some peanut butter. A pesky gray fireball named Peet has been eating all my birdseed. I studded some flashing on the post where Peet gained access to the feeder and it worked, but Peet wouldn't go away. He was jumping up on my window ledge, staring in and giving me a look as if to say, "I'm gonna get you for this!" Sunday morning we got up and Gerry yelled, "We got him!"

We drove out the Flat Road to release the furry jumping bean into the National Forest.

After we let him go into the wilderness we decided to drive the loop to Songo Pond before heading home. Willow enjoys hunting in the woods and Crocker Pond would be a fun hike for all of us. The weather was in the 50s and

me in my tracks as I took it from the package and ran my fingers through the long silky strands. Light brown and perfectly straight, this ponytail was bound by a tiny green elastic band which she had labeled, "Karen."

Mamma always tried to make things even for us kids and this story illustrates her love and devotion to us. Yes, I now recalled the day she carefully cut my long preteen hair and apologized to me that there was not a "baby" lock in the envelope with the others.

Somehow, she explained, ribbons and such playful things as baby hair got put aside as her life became richer and fuller with family obligations. I am an "Irish Twin" with both my brother and my sister and momma did the very best she could.

May your week be blessed with good works and happy people.

Please send me your news and stories to paulmarie@gmail.com or call me 836-2266.

East Bethel

By WALLY RITZ

Here we are again and one more week closer to Christmas and what, winter? As of this writing, I have not found any person remembering this kind of temperatures this time of year. This weekend I saw postings on Facebook about it being the 36th Anniversary of the Blizzard of '78. Hm, the original posting was on Nov. 21. I would like to use this example as a "don't believe everything you see on Facebook" or any site on the web. I did follow up research on various sites on the web and also used my own memory. My oldest daughter was born during that Blizzard. Thus, please do not be fooled so easily by what you read or hear. Check and double check everything.

Going through mamma's treasures transports me way back to sweet moments we shared together. I found a small ordinary envelope mixed in with pictures and trinkets from before my time. Yellowed from age, its aroma held the scent of my mother, which was pleasantly engaging. Mother loved babies as her mother did before her and inside the crinkled paper pocket I found three locks of hair.

Two of the locks were golden baby curls, short, fine and tied with delicate ribbons. One was marked "Sherwood" and one "Audrey." Ribbons appeared important to her as I found many in her things. The third lock of hair stopped him!

Please, do call me at 507-1008 or e-mail heinrichcracker@gmail.com. I am always happy to hear from my readers.

Now the new Trivia: Who is John Decatur (J.D.) Hastings' brother and where did he live?" Enjoy the warm temps.

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5**AFRAID OF THE DENTIST?**

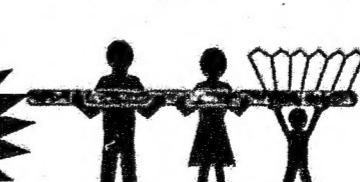
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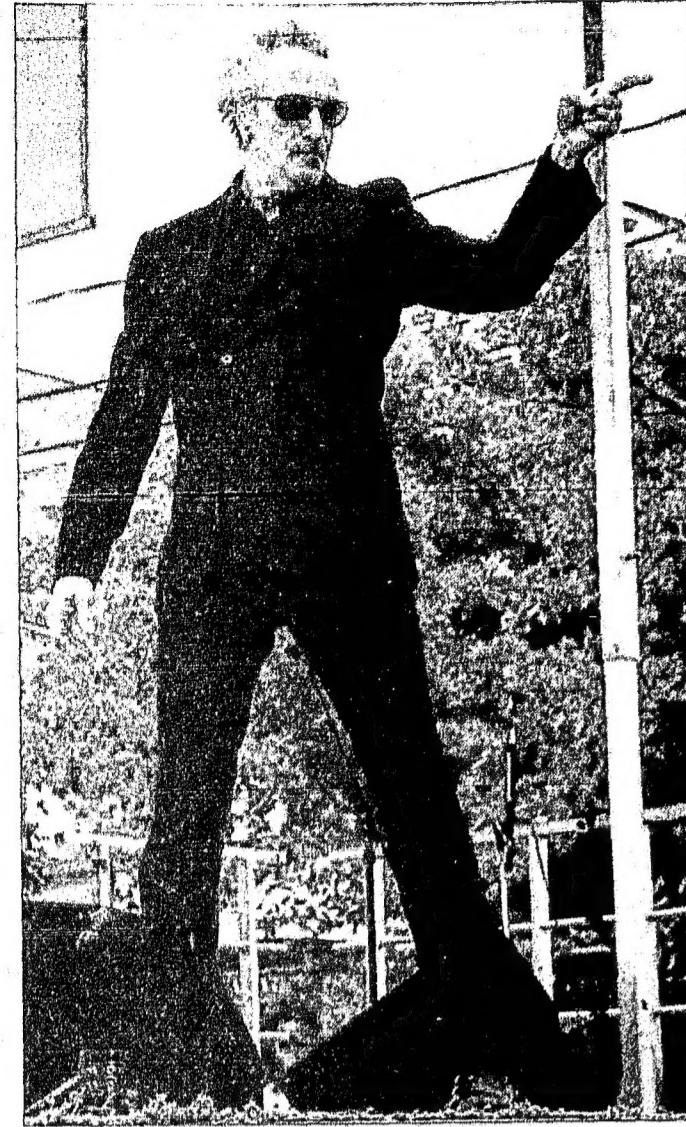
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Thursday, December 17, 2015

The Bethel Citizen

Page 7



JAMES MONTGOMERY BAND COMING TO NEWRY
On New Year's Day the Rockin' & Roastin' Café & Restaurant - At the Mountain will offer its live performance at Sunday River. Aerosmith drummer and owner Joey Kramer will welcome his friend James Montgomery and The James Montgomery Band - the blues musicians whose touring credits include Aerosmith, Bruce Springsteen and The Blues Brothers - to the stage to perform their top hits. Hailing from Kramer's native New York, The Uptown Horns, who have collaborated with the Rolling Stones and R.E.M., among others, also will take to the stage touting their signature horn ensemble. The performance will take place Friday, Jan. 1 at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$55 per person. Advanced tickets are required and are available at: www.rockinandroastinrestaurant.com/tickets.

Submitted photo

Andover

By JANE RICH



I'm happy to report that the DOT has finished the borings for the Brickett Bridge, actually sooner than predicted... now if the bridge replacement ended up sooner than 2017, we would really be pleased.

Town Office news: Nomination papers for Town Officials will be available starting on Monday, Dec. 28 for the General Town Election to be held on Tuesday, March 22. The offices to be filled include a three year term for one position as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor and two three year terms for Andover School Department School Board Representatives.

Holiday hours for the

Town Office include closed on Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. However, on Wednesday, Dec. 23 and 30 afternoon hours will be switched to morning hours from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Library will also be observing different hours. Ordinarily the Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 1 to 4:30 and on Thursday evenings 6 to 8 p.m. Christmas and New Year's weeks the hours

will be as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 1 to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday evening 6 to 8 p.m.

Patrons of the Transfer Station are advised to get their new (blue) stickers by Jan. 1. Since stickers were first issued people have traded vehicles, or the stickers have fallen off or become unreadable. People with property in the Unorganized Territories surrounding

Andover can obtain their red stickers at either the Town Office or the Transfer Station. Just bring a copy of your tax bill from the State, so we can track use of our facility. Oxford County has contracted with Andover to provide this service for U.T. property owners.

Patrons of the Library will notice that the burned out property directly across has disappeared board by board thanks to Frank Emerson who purchased the property and the help of his brothers and sons. The house most recently belonging to Merilee (Jodrey) Thurston and her sister Maggie started out its life as the Parsonage of the Universalist Church. The Library was the church until it was turned over to the Town. The most overriding comment I hear about this is a sincere thank you to improving the town to the Emersons from all the residents.

Recently Richard (Dick) Johnston passed away in Spanaway, Wash. Dick resided here for a number of years in what at the time was the purple house on Pine Street also known as Back Street. While here Dick was known for his pen and ink drawings of almost every public building in town including both churches, the Historical Society, various homes including Forest Lodge on Rapid River, and the Comsat Earth Station. Many of these drawings appeared in the 175th Anniversary Commemorative Program Booklet from 1979. Many of the businesses listed as patrons of this event no longer exist. This was brought to my attention by Bev Swan who discovered several copies in her moving and passed one to me. Sincere sympathy to Polly and her daughters, Melanie, Joy and Julie. Polly and Dick came back to what they considered home every summer since moving west and so were always a part of Andover.

Muzzle Loading Deer Season concluded on Saturday with only one deer being tagged at Mills Market Tagging Station.

My personal thanks to the Ladies' Aid of Upton for the lovely Christmas party on Saturday to which they graciously invited me. A good time was had by all, especially the children who got gifts, not to mention the adults watching the children.

Newry

By DOUG WEBSTER



I have a correction to make from last week's report of the Newry Fire Department's truck. The Newry Fire Department is getting a 5 ton military truck from the Maine State Forest Service that they will outfit as a Forest fire attack truck. Sorry for the mistake. Hail to the chief!

Last week's road committee meeting was held so the road committee could get input from the citizens on how to proceed with the reconstruction of the outer Sunday River Road. The section to be done is from the Monkey Brook Road to the recently reconstructed section at the letter S swimming hole. After discussing many options for possible construction scenarios, as well as different approaches the town can use to finance the project, the consensus at the gathering was to do this section of road "right" to add extra gravel and shimming material and labor necessary to make this section a top notch road. Instead of having a separate bike lane which requires signage and ordinance provisions to make them legitimate, the recommendation is to make the road wider so there is more room to maneuver around bicycles and pedestrians. The recommendation for funding was to have the selectmen look into a bond. That way the town can do it right, and all in one season, instead of phasing the project out over a longer period of time.

Remember if you have any news send it my way. Have a good week.

Gilead

By LIN CHAPMAN



The middle of December and still no snow. Not a problem here.

My brother, Steve McLain, stopped by the house last weekend and reviewed the newsletter that is going out to the members of the Gilead Historical Society.

Lise McLain attended the Senior Club luncheon at the Sudbury Inn on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Two groups of Crescent Park children attended; one group sang, and one



POWERS HONORED-At its annual Christmas party last week the Newry Fire Department gave departing member Ed Powers for his 27 years of active service. Powers and his wife, Loretta, plan to move to Florida next month. Powers, right, is shown here with Newry Fire Chief Bruce Pierce.

Submitted photo

group played individual musical instruments for the seniors. Lise donated three handmade Christmas necklaces that were auctioned as a fundraiser.

— Darlene, Arlene and Alta were the winners.

Hugh and I attended the Christmas Concert at the Gorham Middle School. Our granddaughter, Sidney Chapman, sang in the chorus. They did a great job and after the chorus sang a few songs, the band played several numbers.

Hugh and I attended the monthly meeting of the Woodstock Historical Society last weekend. Before the meeting the members enjoyed a potluck supper. One of the items voted on was to not hold meetings in January and February and resume in March.

Town Office

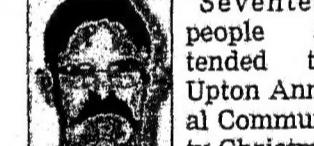
The Board of Selectmen met on Wednesday, Dec. 9. The Town Clerk and Treasurer were unable to attend the meeting.

Reminders: Dog licenses are due on Dec. 31. Stop by the town office on Tuesday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. to see the Town Clerk regarding dog licenses. Also, 2015 real estate taxes need to be paid before Dec. 31 or the unpaid ones will be listed in the annual town report.

Got any news? Call 836-2987 or e-mail chapmal@hotmail.com.

Upton

By JOE BERNIER



Seventeen people attended the Upton Annual Community Christmas Party. Kids of all ages opened gifts and

ate copious amounts of too good food. We had so much fun playing Bingo (I actually won one game) that we forgot to sing any Carols.

Upton has a Christmas Elf that is quietly and discreetly hanging wreaths and swags on public buildings and in the cemetery. The decorations are very pretty and very appreciated. Thank you whoever you are for helping spread Christmas Spirit.

Penny has two brothers. One of them, Gary, lives in Georgia and the other, Gene, in Lewiston. Penny received a package from Gary on Saturday. It looked and felt like in might full of goodies so I opened it. In the package were two wrapped gifts. They were made out to Gene and his wife. Penny called Gene and suggested that he open the package he had received. Sure enough, in the package were two gifts, one for Penny and one for me.

Penny and Gene opened the packages they had to see what the other was supposed to get. We all had a good laugh. I think we should all write to Gary and thank him for the gifts that he unintentionally sent us.

Reciprocity weekend for snowmobilers is coming up in a month or so. The conditions do not look very promising so far.

Is your Christmas shopping complete? No? Mine isn't either.

I am asking for all of the help that you can give. My snow-dancing efforts are a complete failure.

Please call 533-2010 or e-mail backstjoe@gmail.com with your local news.

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Locke's Mills

By AMY WIGHT CHAPMAN

Once again, the holidays have crept up on me. I've done very little Christmas shopping, but most of my gifts come from my kitchen, so I'm not going to panic.

Fortunately, I made enough salsa with our tomatoes back in September to share with several family members, and I'll be making a big batch of granola later this week to give away.

The cookie count topped 1,500 as of today (Monday) and I still have a couple of kinds left to make. I had to plug in my extra freezer in the basement to store them all until it's time to package them up to give away.

The Christmas Eve service at the Locke Mills Union Church will be at 6 p.m. on (naturally) Christmas Eve, next Thursday.

I didn't make it to the cantata at the church this year (I was baking cookies), but cars were lined up along Route 26 in both directions on Sunday afternoon, and I heard that there was an overflow crowd, with about 30 people listening to the music from the Sunday school room.

I enjoyed Pat Stewart's article in last week's Bethel Citizen about the Community Lakes Association. I was interested to read that more than half of the waterfront property owners in Greenwood and Woodstock are Maine residents, and that a third of them have their primary residence in Oxford County.

When my parents built our family camp on the east shore of North Pond in the mid-1950s, nearly all of their neighbors were from nearby – the Andrews, Lambs, and Palmers all lived in Woodstock or West Paris, and there were a few families from the Gorham, N.H. area who bought lots on the Mann Road over the next decade or so. Since we came up from Connecticut to spend the summer at our camp, I was envious of those who lived so nearby that they could start coming to camp early in the spring and continue to spend weekends there into the fall. I'm very glad to have now lived just three miles from our camp for almost half of my life, and only a few miles further away for a decade before that.

Ruth Blakney enjoyed reading about the water-front camps that have been used by multiple generations of the same families. Ruth told me that, counting her grandparents, who didn't own her family camp, but spent time there as visitors, her grandchildren are the fifth generation of her family to enjoy the place, and if her first great-grandchild comes to visit next summer, that will make six generations.

She said Blaine Mills had once told her that no other family currently on the local ponds has owned their property longer than hers.

Like Ruth's grandparents, my grandfather, from Bangor, and my grandmother, who lived in Bethel, visited our camp, and my four siblings all have grandchildren who have spent time there, so that makes five generations for us so far, too.

Town Manager Kim Sparks says that copies of the Greenwood Historical Society's book, *The Early History of Greenwood*, have been flying out of the Town Office. As of early this week, she was down to six copies left of the original 100 printed. More have been ordered, and should be here soon!

E-mail your news to amy.w.chapman@gmail.com, leave a message at 875-5511, or contact me on Facebook.

Hanover

By MARIA HOLLOWAY

Congratulations to Ben Byam, Rumford firefighter, friend of the Library, and dedicated supporter of The Andy Project. At a celebration last week for the Andy House held at the Sunday River Brew Pub, Ben tipped the scale at 259 pounds, for a grand total of 41 pounds lost for the cause. With the support of his wife Samantha, and children Jonah, Julian and Melina, Ben stayed the course and raised \$3,000 for the cause, with more donations continuing to pour in. Thank you, Ben for your hard work and generosity! And many thanks to the people of our community who have contributed to the cause.

After the weigh-out, Andy Barlow presented gifts to the many volunteers and suppliers who have been designated the 2015 Volunteers of the Year for the Town of Hanover. In past years, the annual award had been presented to a single individual who had gone above and beyond for the Town. But this year there were many deserving of the honor. Andy showed his appreciation to each of them with a handshake and coffee mug imprint with the words "Many Hands for Andy's House." It was a joyous occasion and an opportunity, for not only Andy, but for all of the community to express gratitude to the volunteers and suppliers for all they have done.

The house is nearing completion and Andy is expected to move in with in the next few weeks. (Please see a complete list of all the volunteers and suppliers in an accompanying article in this issue of the Bethel Citizen.)

Commemorative Shirts

T-shirts are now for sale at the Library and Town Office. Imprinted with "Home Sweet Andy Home, The House a Village Built," and Andy's signature, the shirts commemorate this historic event and the many hands that built Andy's home. They are priced at \$15 and come in gray or white. There are sizes available for both children and adults. All proceeds will go toward The Andy Project. If you are away for the winter and unable to get to Hanover, please let us know and we will make arrangements to hold one for you.

ME2VA

Maine to Virginia (and back)! Welcome home, Peg and Bob Sisbury, who recently returned from a trip to Virginia where they spent the Thanksgiving holiday (relaxing and working!) with their daughter, Sarah. They are looking forward to welcoming Sarah home when she returns to Maine for a holiday visit next week.

Happy Holidays to all. Take time to reflect and be mindful of the joy that family, friends and the beauty of the season can bring.

Waterford

By ROCKIE GRAHAM

Well, all my work just went into cyber space. So now I am starting over. A good hacker would find it, but not me. My hacking days are long gone. Not that I was ever that good, anyway. Just what I needed to do after 5 days off my feet with problems with my left knee (the good knee supposedly). I did get to see that it is not always me that is making mistakes, my computer is guessing what it thinks I am going to say, just like my phone or tablet will. Not happy about that. I can make enough mistakes all on my own.

This weekend friend Francine stopped by after not having been by for several years. She did

not like what she saw and since she is a physical therapist went to work on me. It made quite a difference and then I went to Dr. Bonnie today. I am not all healed but certainly a lot better, I can walk again. It is awful to feel so helpless and incapable. Hopefully that ends NOW.

My computer is not happy so I guess I will make short work of this and save it every paragraph. That way it can't eat this again. Been a long time since I've had this much trouble.

Thursday, Dec. 17 in West Paris, SeniorsPlus will offer its long distance learning program connecting members of the community with live educational seminars from the Lewiston Education Center of SeniorsPlus. The seminar will be: From Summit to Sea Level, Weather Forecasting. It will be held at the West Paris library. The instructor will be Sarah Long. She will tell her tales of forecasting on Mt. Washington and forecasting for Channel 8. She will also tell how to be a weather spotter. Anyone wishing to join the class should register with SeniorsPlus. FMI call 1-800-427-1241.

Monday, Dec. 21, winter begins and the knit and chat group meets at the Waterford Library from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. I have to go one of these days and relearn how to knit and crochet. Can't believe I've forgotten, but I have. FMI call 583-2050.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, the Book discussion group meets at Waterford library at 10 a.m. All are welcome. FMI call the library at 583-2050.

Next week is the full moon, the last of the year and it is called the full cold moon. I don't know if it will mean it gets really cold, but we are due for some winter weather and the timing is right. It shows up on Christmas Day.

Hope all have a great Christmas. Anyone with something to add to the column is welcome to call me at 743-0583.

Bryant Pond

By ALICE HOYT

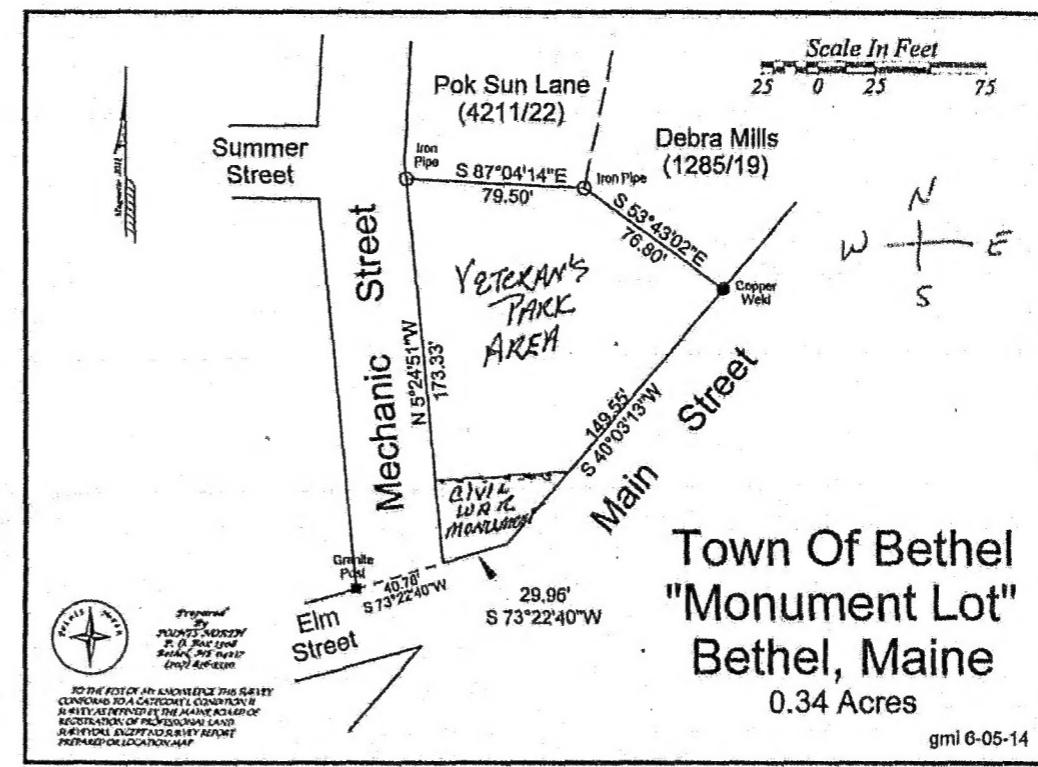
Franklin Grange 124 met at the hall for a regular meeting on Saturday, Dec. 5. A program by Ruby was held with a reading by Ruby, "Christmas Recipes." Reading by Peter "Golden Cobwebs;" Songs: "Oh Come All Ye Faithful," "Jingle Bells," and "Silent Night." Gifts and cards were exchanged. For the next three months, the Grange will meet the first Saturday of the month at the home of Ken Hoyt. A potluck lunch was held.

On Friday, Dec. 11, Franklin Grange honored Jim Miclon as State Police Officer of the Year. An open meeting and reception were held recognizing his many years in law enforcement. Officers of the Maine State Grange were in attendance. The award was officially made at the annual session of the Maine State Grange and this meeting provided other emergency responders as well as the public an opportunity to congratulate Jim on this achievement.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Rotary held their annual ham dinner for senior citizens at the American Legion in Locke's Mills. A delicious dinner was served and music by the Telstar band was enjoyed. A gift was given to each one attending. Many thanks to the Rotary Club for this enjoyable time.

Services at the Baptist Church are Sunday School at 9:15, Morning Worship at 10:30, Evening Service at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening at 6:30 is Mid-Week Service, Bloom for girls 13 to 18 and Foundations for guys 15 and up. Saturday, Dec. 19 is Men's Fellowship breakfast at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thursday, Dec. 24 is

Bethel veterans' park project is restarting



On Dec. 9, 11 veterans and non-veterans met at the office of Bob Chadbourne to restart after a two-year delay the Veteran's Monument Project and Park. The Project will be located on the Dunn Lot which is also the site of the Civil War Monument.

The committee would like to encourage any and all students and adults of any age to submit their ideas of what they would like to see for a Veteran's Park. This would be a great opportunity for art classes, graphic design classes and history classes of the area schools to submit ideas.

This property must solely be used as a Veteran's Monument and Park to honor veterans. The deed states from the owner the following language: "The above parcel shall be used for the sole purpose of constructing a veteran's monument and park to honor veterans. If the Grantee, its successors or assigns, should convey or burden said parcel for any other purpose than a veteran's monument park, the property shall revert to the then-living heirs of the Grantor."

A criteria for anyone submitting any ideas is that there will be a lit flagpole at this park. There will be electricity and water to the site. Otherwise than that we encourage any and all ideas. The committee will compile all ideas and make decisions based on what they have received. The committee will have the right to accept or reject any or all portions of ideas that are submitted.

The plot plan pictured shows the lot and where the park will be. We encourage anyone to visit the site to get an idea of the size of what the Committee will be working with.

All ideas can be submitted by mail to Jane A. Ryerson, P.O. Box 152, Bethel, Maine 04217 or you can e-mail them to: carjar95@megalink.net or jane.ryerson@yahoo.com.

The deadline for submissions should be on or before March 31, 2016. We hope to see a lot of great ideas.

We are also still trying to gather names from anyone who has served their country during peacetime or conflict any time after the Viet Nam war, from the towns of Albany, Bethel, Grafton, Mason and Riley Plantation. Those names can also be submitted to the addresses listed above.

If you wonder if you are included on our names we have already received, do not hesitate to get in touch at the above addresses. - Jane Ryerson

Jam Stand

(formerly American Pie)

By Betsy Riley

Twas the night before Christmas and up on the trail, star seekers wandered amidst blowing gale. The young bodies tired from singing and step. The peak seemed so distant, minutes til dinner just crept. "Oh Mom, why this year? We've done this before." But tradition rings clear, like never before. With snowshoe, pack basket and candy cane fuel, the pod quietly traveled leaving stardust to rule. To the top of the mountain on a clear coated night, I spend Christmas Eve with the loves of my life. Tumbling down to the valley below with a meal as special as the Star of Bethlehem's glow. We plop in the car sleigh and sing Silent Night, into a warm home with all candlelight. With spiced nuts and cherries, we sit by the fire, stirring cheese fondue listening to John Denver aspire. We giggle and chat and take off our socks, hang them off the mantle, eat fudge and lose track of our talks. It's Christmas, it's simple, it's love that we share. Here's the recipe for mine, it's not hard, I promise, I care. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good bite! Wishing you merry, happy and bright!

Spiced Nuts

1 egg white; 1 tsp. water; 1-12 oz can salted mixed nuts (2c); 1 c. sugar; 2 tsp. cinnamon.

Preheat oven to 350. In medium bowl, beat egg white until frothy, add water and beat again until soft mountain peaks form. Fold in nuts, stirring to coat. In a small bowl, mix sugar and cinnamon together. Add to nut mixture and stir to coat. Cut a brown paper grocery bag to fit a large baking sheet. Spread nuts on lined sheet and bake for 20-25 minute. Stir a few times while baking. Nut mix will foam. Remove from oven, remove paper from sheet, cool on baking rack. Store in airtight container. Now ... this nut preparation is also yummy using only pecans for a simple salad and sliced apple topping.

Granny Knockers

In 2010, Christmas Eve found me in Ludlow, Vt. scavenging for simple meal ingredients. Having worked all day, I stumbled into a local smokehouse for a sampling of splendid sausages to accompany the gotta have list. Rummaging through the freezer bin of yum a lum links, this one brought a stitch to my side and a familiar smirk. Since then, we hand make Granny Knockers. Quirky, wholesome, home away from hometown good.

1 lb. ground pork; 1 granny smith apple, grated; 1/4 c. chopped pecans; 1/4 c. grated onion; 1 clove garlic; 2 tbsp. fresh sage chopped; Zest of 1 lemon; 1/4 tsp salt & cayenne pepper.

Mix ingredients together in a bowl. Cover and refrigerate for a few hours. When ready, heat up the cast iron pan over medium heat. Shape the sausage into patties, links...you name it and place on hot griddle. Cook a few minutes per side (golden, brown and delicious) and serve.

Simple Salad: Spring mix greens and dressing.

Dressing: In a jar add 2 tbsp. vinegar, 2 tbsp. olive oil (or combination with canola), 1 tsp. Dijon and S & P to taste. Cover and shake. Red wine vin and a tsp of fresh rosemary are delightful as well as only balsamic with this meal.

Cheese Fondue

1/2 lb Swiss cheese, cut into julienne strips; 1 tbsp. flour; 1 clove garlic, halved; 1-1/4 c. cooking wine (Sauvignon Blanc works beautifully); Dash pepper and nutmeg; 3 tbsp. cooking Sherry (My fav ... Kirshwasser cherry liquor).

Toss cheese with flour to coat. Rub inside of fondue pot or saucepan with garlic cloves. Add wine and warm over medium heat until bubbles start. Add a handful of cheese stirring constantly until it melts. Add more and continue melting, stirring and adding until all the cheese is gone. Place over fondue heat and serve with cubes of bread.

Flourless Chocolate Cake

4-oz semisweet chocolate squares, chopped; 1/4 c. butter; 1/4 c. unsweetened cocoa; 3 eggs; 1 tsp. vanilla.

Preheat oven to 300. Melt chocolate and butter in microwave in medium sized glass bowl on high for 1 minute. Stir and if not completely melted add 20 seconds and stir until combined. Add the remaining ingredients and mix with hand mixer until combined. In a greased and coco-dusted 8-inch cake pan, add batter and bake for 30 minutes. Cool and serve with fresh raspberries and a dollop of soft vanilla ice cream. Visions of sweetress will dance in your head!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. There will be no regular midweek service that week.

The Christmas tree by the Post Office looks pretty. I love to ride at night to see the different lights this time of year.

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Bethel Senior Citizen News

The Bethel Senior Citizens Club met at the Sudbury Inn for their meeting and luncheon with 40 members present.

President Fran Head led the salute to the flag and conducted the meeting. Carol Stevens, minister of the Methodist Church offered a prayer.

Reports were given by Becky Keen and Arlene Lowell. The door prize was won by Bill Thurston and the 50/50 raffle by Elizabeth Gilbert.

Lise McLain made and donated three necklaces which were won by Alta Smith, Darlene Demeritt and Arlene Lowell, \$50 was raised from the tickets sold.

The next meeting will be Jan. 13, 2016 at the Bethel Methodist Church.

This will be a pot luck dinner members will bring a dish to share, this will also be the auction and members will bring items for this.

Meeting starts at 11 a.m. Crescent Park Chorus, under the direction of Linda Stowell, sang several Christmas songs.

The band, under the direction of Duncan McFarland, played several numbers. There were also some solos. Both the chorus and band were enjoyed by the Senior Citizens.

Donations were taken up for the Food Pantry and Nina Wheeler's Christmas for Families.

Happy Birthday was sung to those having December birthdays: Musa Brown, Donna Douglass, Caroline Gould, Alma Merrill and Mary Paine.

Happenings at The Gem

The Gem presents photography by Angevine, film by Warren Miller and music by Shadagee Ramblers

The Gem theater will present "Mahosuc Dreamscape," a new exhibition by photographer Craig Derek Angevine on Saturday, Dec. 19. Angevine's large-scale photographs of local landscapes will transform the vacant spaces of The Gem. The exhibition captures moments of transition in stunning color and scale.

The event concludes a three-week fundraising campaign to re-open the theater to show current blockbusters, small art films, and family-friendly motion pictures to local residents. The reception will begin at 6 p.m.

With the help of a generous match by Sunday River Resort, The Gem has

pre-sold enough tickets to convert its largest theater to a digital projection system, a necessary tool to screen many of the movies available in wide release today.

Tickets are available on the website or in the theater. In conjunction with the art opening, The Gem is partnering with the Sunday River Ski Club to host Warren Miller's new ski and snowboard movie "Chasing Shadows" at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are available at www.thegemtheater.com. With so much happening in one night, The Gem is promoting this as the first annual "No-office Holiday Party," for everyone without an office. There will be live music by the Shadagee Ramblers, raffles items and a cash bar by 22 Broad Street. The party will kick-off at 5:30 p.m.

Age-Friendly Community News

Livability Factor - Housing

We spend more time in our homes than anywhere else, so housing costs, choices, and accessibility are very important to those wishing to remain at home as they age. Great communities provide housing opportunities for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities. So how does Bethel rate?

The AARP has calculated a "livability index" for communities across the country. (Go to <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org> and type in 04217 in the zip code to see the entire index for Bethel.) Bethel's housing index is 52 out of 100 in terms of accessibility, choice, and affordability. But what does that mean for you, the individual, hoping to stay in your own home? It requires some careful planning on your part. There are many resources available to help you ask the right questions and find the answers that work for you, among them:

- The National Aging in Place Council (<http://www.aginginplace.org/>) offers practical advice and a planning template called "Act III: Your Plan for Aging in Place" that can be filled out online.

- Maine Senior Guide (<http://www.maineseniorguide.com>) has a section on home safety, modifications and maintenance.

If you have questions about housing opportunities in the Bethel area or suggestions on how to improve the housing situation, you may contact Jackie Cressy (rivendellhousebnb@me.com or 824-0508). Don't forget the public meeting to hear the results of the survey administered in October: West Parish Congregational Church, Thursday, Jan. 14, 4 to 6 p.m.

School news

Telstar cafeteria to get a makeover

Exciting news for Telstar! The Peer Ambassador group from Telstar Middle School have been approved to redesign/makeover our cafeteria.

The cafeteria is a place where all students congregate to eat and socialize and we would like to see it be a bright and welcoming space that provides nutritional information through design and an aesthetically pleasing environment.

As part of the project we will promote healthy eating and proper waste disposal. We also hope to provide new microwave and condiment stations and new window treatments.

Our plan is to paint the walls a more vibrant and welcoming color and to create different stations around the cafeteria by

painting murals on panels to attach to the walls and around door frames.

Of utmost importance is the "Eat a Rainbow" mural on large panels of wood. This would include paintings of vegetables and fruits and dairy products in bright vibrant colors accompanied by various educational prompts to bring awareness to students about the importance of eating with a nutritional mindset.

Additionally, we plan to revamp our recycling and trash areas with new bins for composting and recycling. The more awareness we bring to the student body about the importance of disposing of waste and reducing our negative impact on the environment, the better. This effort would also prompt

more students to recycle their cans and bottles so that we can redeem them for cash for the school.

We will elicit the help of volunteers in our community, student volunteers and the support of our maintenance crew help us in our design and construction efforts.

Of course, in order to pay for the cost of the makeover, we will rely on donations from different grants, the larger community and our own fundraising efforts.

We ask that the community help us in our efforts by donating money to our cause. Be on the lookout for donation cans in different businesses in the Bethel community and feel free to donate through the Middle School Office.

- Stephanie Mastroianni



Dylan Greenberg, Julius Woods, Logan and Tanner Martin, Forest Pelletier, Eli Shifrin, Romeo Villanueva, Tess Feltz, Chelsea Declos, Utah Bean.

SAD 44 Lego team wins awards

LEGO robotics, called First LEGO League is an international program. Our students begin working in September with a different theme featured every year. This year's theme was Trash Trek. We have to produce a project, share it with the community to solve a problem about trash in our community or state. We looked at many types of trash and decided to tackle the plastic bag problem that all grocery stores and our landfills face. We put a box at the grocery store after talking and planning with the manager and asking the school superintendent if it was alright to do so. There is a box labeled so folks can take a bag(s) or leave bag(s) if they need it. We are hoping to reduce the use of plastic AND paper bags at our local store.

In the meantime, we built a LEGO autonomous robot and we wrote programs (as a team of 10 students) to complete challenges on a 4 x 8 Foot field created by LEGO. This part of the competition is done so everyone can see. We did a qualifier at Spruce Mountain in Jay. There, we received a trophy for "Strategy and Innovation," the team felt great, they all worked SO hard. Then we came back and worked for three more weeks before going to the Augusta Civic Center, the state meet. We came away with another trophy for "Mechanical Design" which is directly for our robot and how they designed it. It was a very successful year!

ONE team from Augusta will go to St. Louis in April and compete in the World competition. Teams across the globe have the same theme, same field mat, and same challenges as we do. FLL emphasizes Gracious Professionalism, if you do not have it or show it, you will not get far. Teams cheer for each other and are generally very well behaved because of it. It's impressive.

It's not easy to explain in short sentences, so there you have it!! I've been doing this for 11 years here at CPS, with mixed groups from 5th-8th grade. Kate Slattery joined me last year and has been as huge asset to the team. This year we had 5 fifth graders: Logan Martin, Tess Feltz, Chelsea DuClos, Forest Pelletier, and Eli Shifrin, middle schoolers: Utah Bean Dylan Greenberg, Romeo Villanueva,

Telstar's James Newkirk wins Tyler scholarship

A Telstar High School student has won a scholarship for his first-place project in the Tyler Technologies Maine App Challenge.

James Newkirk, a junior, received first place for his project "Edible Bethel," which provides users with access to a network of free and healthy organic vegetables in Bethel.

Winners of the Tyler

Technologies Maine App Challenge were introduced during the third annual Maine Robotics EXPO Saturday in Augusta.

The Challenge, in partnership with Educate Maine's Project>Login, is an application development competition for high school students, who received \$10,000 in total scholarships for their in-

novative projects. Maine Robotics welcomed more than 800 students and 2,000 guests from all over the State of Maine at its third annual Maine Robotics EXPO, held at the Augusta Civic Center. The full-day event aims to inspire Maine's future workforce by fostering early interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-related disciplines.

Sports

THS Boys' Varsity Basketball

Wiscasset 47, Telstar 45; Dec. 9 – Telstar scorers: Tanner Wheeler (7); Blake Rothwell (8); Avry Griffin (4); Jarrett Bean (15); Jeremiah Richardson (11). Three pointers: Bean (4); Rothwell (2); Richardson.

TMS Girls' Varsity Basketball

Dirigo 35, Telstar 21; Dec. 10 – Leading scorers for the Rebels were Luci Rothwell with 6, Aneah Bartlett with 4, Calla Orino, Caroline Newell, Fiona Cornwall, Angela Cintron and Lydia Bennett each with 2. – Coach Dave Berry

TMS Boys' Varsity Basketball

Dirigo 47, Telstar 28; Dec. 10 – With pretty balanced scoring, Finn McLaughlin led the scoring with 8 points, Devin Cole-Mason added 6 points, and Davin Mason and Russell Haines scored 5 points each. Asa Hall and Mario DeVivo continue to improve and play great defense. The team is now 1-1. – Coach Tim O'Connor

Mountain Valley Rec Basketball

M and M Carpentry is off to a 2-0 start with an 89-55 trouncing of The Crew, who was playing shorthanded. The big front court of Matt Newell (22 points), Terry Collins (18) and Matt Zettis (17) led the way. Joe Gaudreau had another 12 points and Jason Rosenberg had a hustling 10 more. The Crew (1-1) was led by Cliff Stewart with 17 points and Justin Stairles with 12. Next, Tommy Guns (1-1) got their first win of the season, with a solid 96-79 win over Jay (0-2). Juwan Daniels was lead man with 23 points, followed by Tim Turner 21, Josh Thomas 17, Dave St. Germain 12 and Tony Daniels with 10 points. Jay's Zach Bonneville was formidable with 5 threes and 30 points. Kyle Storer had 18 points and Eric Gemmill scored 12. While the scheduled last game of the day, LBI (2-0) was a forfeit win over The Underdogs (0-2), the final played game was a good victory for Archie's (1-1) defeating Bethel (1-1), 81-73. Archie's played well together distributing the ball consistently, as six players placed in double figures, Brett Archibald (18 points), Craig Derouche (17), Ben Ryerson (12), Colby Knapp and Glen Dubois (11 each) and Steve Lizotte (10). Bethel had a decent game in defeat. They were paced by Dom Halines with 16 points, JT Taylor 15, Ryan Kimball 13, Leo Files 11 and Ryan Savage with 10.

Telstar High School graduates: Where are they now?



THE EMERSON FAMILY

Fred Emerson: 1997 Telstar graduate, 2001 Harvard University graduate, 2005 Albany Medical Center graduate, dual board certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics and practicing in Maine.

Daniel Emerson: 1997 Telstar graduate, 2001 Harvard University graduate, 2002 University of Michigan Masters Degree graduate, currently employed as Principal PM Manager at Microsoft.

Frank Emerson: 2005 Telstar graduate, attended Cornell University, currently employed as a software engineer at Microsoft.

Mark Emerson: 2008 Telstar graduate, 2013 Boston College graduate, currently employed as a software engineer at Microsoft.

(Note: This photo is from the MSAD 44 Facebook page that provides information submitted by Telstar graduates on what they have been doing since high school.)

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Children's Stage Adventures, Inc. directed elementary children in a production of "The Emperor's New Clothes" Friday at the Crescent Park Elementary School. Above, townspeople, children, sheep and other characters of Royal City.

A. Aloisio

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District Exchange; Bethel Park, 23 Mason Street, Bethel. Hours: Monday 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of gently-used clothing only accepted during open hours - No exceptions. FMI: 824-4090. Clothing may also be left at Northeast Bank, Main Street, Bethel Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bethel Area Food Pantry; serving the residents of Albany, Andover, Bethel, East Bethel, West Bethel, Bryant Pond, Gilead, Greenwood, Hanover, Locke's Mills, Mason Township, Newry, Upton and Woodstock. The Food Pantry is open on the second Monday of each month from noon to 8 p.m. Anyone in need of food should come during those hours, without appointment. The Food pantry is located in the basement of the Nazarene Church, 16 Church Street, Bethel, by the side entrance on Park Street. Donations for the Bethel Food Pantry should be left on the porch at 57 Elm Street. Contact Dave Bean at beand@gouldacademy.org or 824-0369 with any questions.

Northern Vista at Home Senior Care; Free shuttle service to those going to reoccurring chemo or radiation appointments at St. Mary's or Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. To schedule a ride, call Gerry McCann, director, at 207-836-2173.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Oxford County USDA Local Work Group Meeting; 10 a.m. to noon, Oxford County Extension Office, 9 Olson Road, South Paris. Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District (OC-SWCD) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invite the public to attend a meeting of the Oxford County USDA Local Work Group. The Local Work Group will provide recommendations for the 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to their local USDA - NRCS.

SeniorsPlus Long-Distance Learning Program; 1 to 2:30 p.m., West Paris Library. A Class on Weather Forecasting. A Long Distance Learning program presented by SeniorsPlus. Free with pre-registration - call 1-800-427-1241.

Friday, Dec. 18

Gould Academy's Annual Yulefest; 4 to 5 p.m., Bingham Auditorium, Church Street. Take in the sounds of the holidays during Gould Academy's annual Yulefest and watch as the school's band, chorus group, and student vocalists set the stage for a magical evening performance. FMI: gouldacademy.org.

Saturday, Dec. 19

"Ghost Buck: One Man's Family and their Hunting Traditions" Book Launch; 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Bethel Historical Society's Dr. Moses Mason House exhibit hall. Long-standing American wilderness champion Dean Bennett, a native of Locke's Mills in Greenwood, weaves together memoir, natural history, politics, and emotion into a volume chock-full of information about hunting in a changing world and the legends of the elusive Ghost Buck that haunted his family's camp. The event is free, refreshments will be served, and copies of Dean Bennett's book will be available for purchase and signing.

No-Office Holiday Party; 5:30 to 10:30 p.m., The Gem Theater, 23 Cross Street, Bethel. Food, cash bar, raffles and music! Help to celebrate the end to a (hopefully) successful fundraising campaign to convert the theater to digital. We encourage you to wear your favorite ski or holiday sweater. This event coincides with Craig Derek Angevine's art

opening, Mahoosuc Dreamscape, and the screening of Warren Miller's new ski film, Chasing Shadows at 6 and 8 p.m. Movie tickets: \$10. The party is free. FMI/Tickets: www.thegemtheater.com.

Sunday, Dec. 20

Holiday Movie Marathon; The Gem, 23 Cross Street, Bethel. 10 a.m.: Frosty the Snowman (G), 11 a.m.: It's a Wonderful Life (PG), 2 p.m.: White Christmas (PG), 4 p.m.: Elf (PG), 6 p.m.: Love Actually (R). Tickets: \$5. 10 a.m. show is free. FMI/Tickets: www.thegemtheater.com.

Environmental Book Discussion; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Café DiCocoa, 125 Main Street, Bethel. Naya Clifford will sign copies of her debut novel, Into the North Woods, and discuss issues related to green industry and environmental activism. Signed copies of Into the North Woods will be available for purchase directly from the author.

Finnish-American Heritage Society Meeting; 2 p.m., 8 Maple Street, West Paris. Following a short business meeting, Natalie Parsons will present a very interesting program describing her journey to Antarctica last winter. The public is invited to attend and share the coffee table.

Bethel Episcopal House Church; 3 p.m. in a local Bethel home. The Rev. Nancy Moore, Rector at Christ Episcopal Church, Norway, will lead the service and Eucharist. Light holiday refreshments will follow the service. All are welcome. FMI: Rosemary Laban (850-766-1241) or Christ Episcopal Church (743-6782). Please come join us!

Waterford Christmas; 4 p.m. open house at the historic Waterford Congregational Church sanctuary followed by caroling around the tree on the Common at 4:30. Special caroling books purchased by the Church and the library and donated to the town will be available for the first time as Jane Morse leads the community in song. Everyone is invited to the library following the singing of carols for treats and a visit from Santa.

Living Nativity; 5 p.m., Bethel Common. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It will be followed by a time of sharing Christmas refreshments at the Moses Mason House. Call 207-824-2289 for more information.

Monday, Dec. 21

Gould Academy "Hot Cocoa Hello" at Sunday River; 8 to 9 a.m., slopeside at the Gould Academy Competition Program building in Sunday River's Barker basin. Gould's full-time coaches, faculty, and students will be on hand to share their academic and athletic experiences and answer any questions. More information at gouldacademy.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

The Polar Express Jammies Party; The Gem Theater, 23 Cross Street, Bethel. For all the believers (and doubters) we'll have hot cocoa, cookies and a fun holiday movie. Please come in your PJ's! Come at 6 p.m. for hot cocoa and cookies! Movie starts at 6:30 p.m. \$5. FMI/Tickets: www.thegemtheater.com.

Thursday, Dec. 24

Annual Christmas Eve Service; 5 p.m., Waterford Congregational Church. This service will feature choral music, readings, and a live nativity scene with special music. All are invited. FMI: Waterford Congregational Church's Facebook page.

Christmas Eve Service; 6 p.m., Locke Mills Union Church.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service; 7 p.m., Bethel Alliance Church, 251 Walker's Mills Rd. (across from Telstar parking lot). Call 207-824-2289 for more info.

Monday, Dec. 28

Free Fireside Chat "The History of Maine Skiing 1870-Present;" 7 p.m., Bethel Inn, Gibson Room. Free slide show with commentary about the History of Maine Skiing 1870-2015. Presented by the Ski Museum of Maine.

Wednesday, Dec. 30

Gould Academy "Hot Cocoa Hello" at Sunday River; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., slopeside at the Gould Academy Competition Program building in Sunday River's Barker basin. Gould's full-time coaches, faculty, and students will be on hand to share their academic and athletic experiences and answer any questions. More information at gouldacademy.org.

Monday, Jan. 4

Socrates Café Meeting; 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Waterford Library. Discussion topic: Gun violence. Moderator: Robert Casimiro. Light refreshments provided. FMI or snow date: 583-6957.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Swingin' Bears Square Dance Club Beginner Classes; 6:30 to 7:45, Oxford Hills Middle School cafeteria, 100 Pine Street, South Paris. This is the first in a 15-week adult education program. Tuition: \$45. FMI: swinginbears.squaredanceme.us.

Thursday, Jan. 7

Stephanie Emery Presentation; 6:30 p.m., West Paris Library. Stephanie will present a talk and show pictures from her adventures with a tour company called Adventure Bus. Her travels with Adventure Bus have taken her to all 50 states and 45 of the 50 National Parks. Stephanie's photographs of the Western National Parks are currently on display at the library. FMI: 674-2004.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Ski Museum of Maine 2nd Annual Vintage Ski Fashion Show; 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Bethel Inn, main dining room. \$25 admission fee includes hors d'oeuvres. There will be a full cash bar. Door prizes. Proceeds will go toward establishing a Bethel satellite exhibit.

Sunday, Jan. 10

John Waller in Concert (Sponsored by The Lighthouse Events); 6 p.m., Bethel Alliance Church, 251 Walker's Mills Road (across from Telstar parking lot). John Waller's songs have been featured in the movies Fireproof and War Room. The concert is free with a love offering being taken. Please join us! FMI: 207-824-2289.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

Bethel Senior Citizens Meeting/Luncheon; 11 a.m., Bethel Methodist Church. This is a pot-luck dinner; members are asked to bring a dish to share. The auction will also be held, and members are asked to bring items to be auctioned off.

Thursday, Jan. 14

Bethel Area Prevention Task Force Meeting; 3 p.m., SAD 44 Main Office.

Age-Friendly Community Gathering; 4 to 6 p.m., West Parish Congregational Church, Church Street, Bethel. Hear from and talk with Amy Flowers of Analytic Insight in Lewiston regarding her analysis of data collected from over 200 Age-Friendly Community surveys.

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MAHOOSUC KIDS!

Enrichment opportunities for the children in SAD #44

From the Director

November was a busy month at MKA. All three sites were in community service gear making centerpieces for the NHS Thanksgiving Dinner. The TMS students also make Veterans Day cards for the folks at the Maine Veterans Home. This has been a tradition for the past 10 years! As the holidays approach, all of our sites are doing programming showcasing holidays around the world.

Congratulations to the MKA First LEGO Team on their performance at the statewide competition last weekend in Augusta. They competed with 60 other teams from around the state and came home with a first place trophy in Mechanical Design. Thanks to all the parents who supported the students in this program and especially our awesome coaches, Marie Keane and Kate Slattery.

Christmas vacation is approaching fast and from everyone at MKA - have a great vacation and get outside and do something fun!

*Julie Hart,
MKA Director*



Woodstock students created Pilgrim hat centerpieces for a Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Telstar's National Honor Society.



Dakota serving kids for our Thanksgiving dinner!



We created a Grateful Turkey that was used at Turkey Tuesday here in town.



Learning how to pass food and waiting until everyone was served to eat.



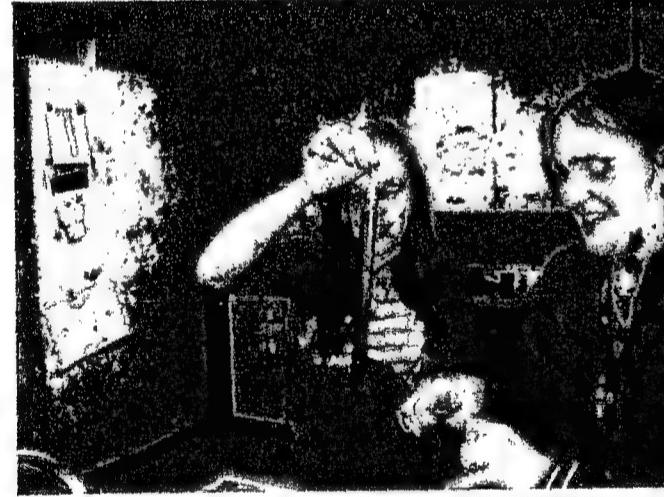
The LEGO team took first place in Mechanical Design at their competition this past Saturday! Pictured are Dylan Greenburg, Romeo Villanueva, Eli Shifrin, Chelsea Duclos, Forest Pelletier, Logan Martin, Tanner Martin, Tess Fultz, Utah Bean. Absent: Julius Woods. Coaches: Marie Keene and Kate Slattery.



Abby, Savannah, Meagan and Kaitlynn making butter and bread.



Many of our MKA kids participating in The Emperors New Clothes play.



Sophie from the 4-H camp and Kaitlynn making candles.



On December 1st, the Woodstock School's site presented the play Santa's Got a Cookie Problem to their friends and family. Cast members included: Gabrielle Groves, Matthew Bean, Megan Millett, Skye Wind, and Karen Marshall.



The cup challenge!



The following businesses proudly support the Mahoosuc Kids Association

\$5 OFF
Frank's NY Pizza
WITH THIS COUPON
Cheese Pizza Reg. \$10.50
\$5.50 w/coupon!
Available Only at
CROSSROADS DINER
Route 2 Bethel • 824-3673

Nurturing Vines
Childcare
824-4926
6 weeks - 5 years
Full Time
Seasonal
Open Year Round
312 Mayville Road

Good Food STORE & Catering Company
Great Heat and Eat Foods
Open Daily 9 - 8
U.S. Route 2, Bethel
824-3754

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Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

X I B U I B Q Q F O F E X I F O T B O U B H P U B

T P S F U I S P B U C F G P S F D I S J T U N B T ? I F

I B E U P I B W F I J T U J O T F M T U B L F O P V U .

SCRAMBLERS
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

| | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| Switch | GANECH | _____ | _____ |
| Kindling | RIDENT | _____ | _____ |
| Snap | CLACKER | _____ | _____ |
| Smirk | PRIMES | _____ | _____ |

TODAY'S WORD

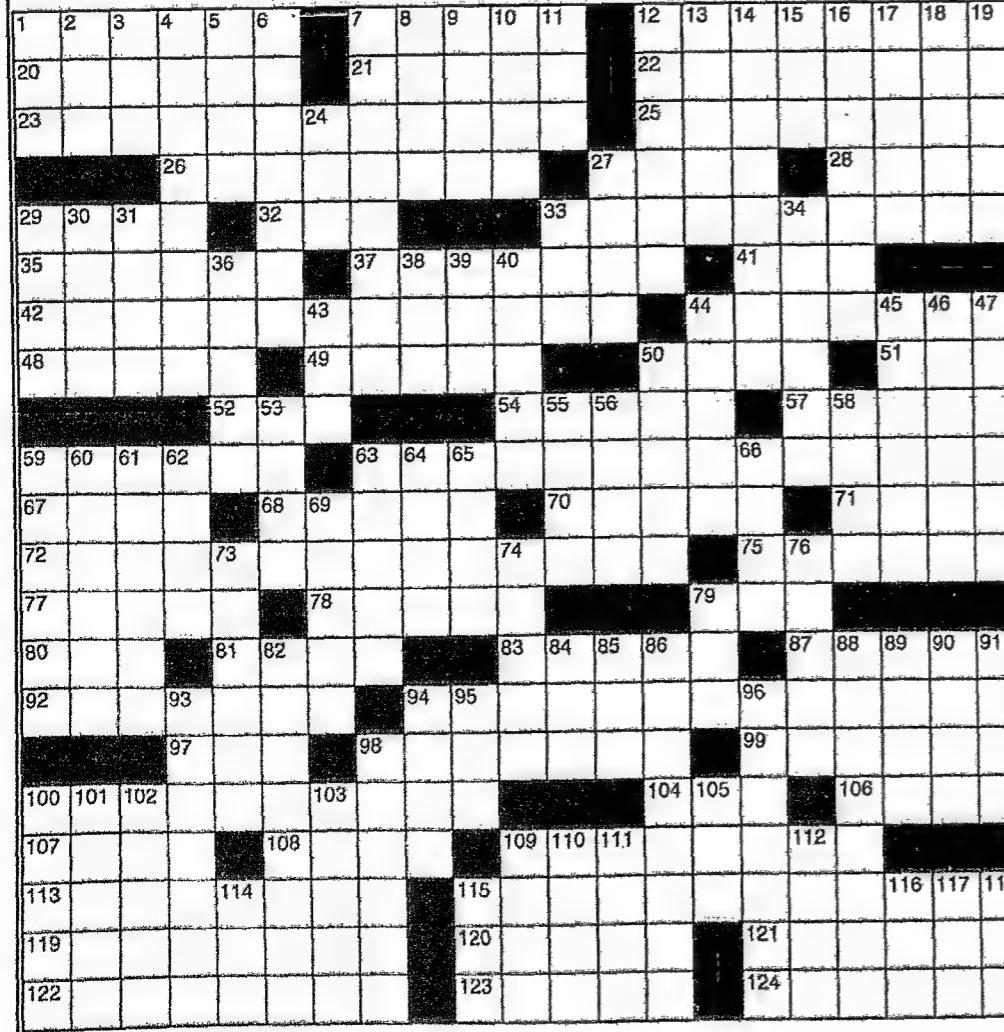
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Super Crossword

LITERAL LANGUAGE LESSON

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 54 "How can — thank you?" | 100 CRUX | 7 Tramway vehicle | 43 Holy people: Abb. | 86 Gauged |
| 1 Brings together | 57 Archipelago | 104 Finish | 8 Light tan | 44 Flat cap | 88 Suburb of Washington, D.C. |
| 7 Refrain from | 59 Result of a belly flop | 106 With 90- | 9 To — (exactly) | 45 Steamboat | 89 To boot |
| 12 Wild prank | 63 KOUCHUJ | part Down, side | 10 Adriatic and Baltic | 11 Roush of the Reds | 90 See 106-Across |
| 20 Toss again, as dice | 67 Prudish type | 107 "How sad!" | 12 Symbol | 12 Beauty shop | 91 Smur or Rock suffix |
| 21 Took steps, as wynn of jazz trumpet | 68 Garlic-seasoned mayonnaise | 108 DVR | 13 They're leaned on for support | 15 Horse cousin | 93 Old Austrian emperors |
| 23 PANE | 70 Howling mad | 109 Summer starts with one | 16 Eye covers | 16 Eye covers | 94 Mediocre |
| 25 Blows stormily, as wind | 71 Artist Bonheur | 113 At an unknown point in the future | 17 New Olds 1999 | 19 More terrible | 95 Speaker systems, for short |
| 26 Lessens in worth | 72 LUACH | 121 Make current | 18 New Olds 1999 | 20 Opt for first | 96 Sphinx riddle solver |
| 27 Congeal | 75 Shylock, e.g. | 122 Most cheeky | 19 Ruhr city | 61 Many babies born in fall | 98 London's Garden |
| 28 Plains tribe | 77 Actor/singer Zac | 123 Slacked off | 20 Of warships: Abbr. | 100 Makes it | 101 Honolulu "hi" |
| 29 Baby's first word, maybe | 80 Stephen of "The Heavy" | 124 Usher, often | 21 Rock's Motley — | 101 Honolulu "hi" | 102 Instills |
| 32 "— heard worse" | 81 Old letter salutation | 125 BAGVAERK | 29 Swabs | 102 Instills | 103 Singer LeAnn |
| 33 CORNE | 83 Mountain cats | 119 Poe poem | 30 Declare openly | 103 Rivers and Baez | 104 — dociity in |
| 35 Rudimentary seeds | 87 Tail off | 120 Dunne of film | 31 Equine hybrid | 104 Farming-related prefix | 105 — power |
| 37 Skull | 92 "Tobacco Road" | 121 Make current | 33 Pear-shaped false fruit | 105 Toll producer | 109 Actress |
| 41 Weed-chopping tool | novelist Caldwell | 122 Most cheeky | 34 Immobilize at a rodeo | 106 Statement of empathy | 110 Gilbert |
| 42 KIELBASA | 94 TORTILLA | 123 Slacked off | 35 Will of "Blue Bloods" | 107 Pulver's rank | 111 Queue (up) |
| 44 Requests desperately | 97 — Khan (Islamic title) | 124 Usher, often | 38 Wish to undo | 73 Pulver's rank | 112 Bullfight wear |
| 48 Sugary | 98 Ships transporting fossil fuel | 125 BAGVAERK | 39 Smile center | 74 Sherpa land | 113 — chi (martial art) |
| 49 Car tire's outer layer | 50 "la vie" | 126 Most cheeky | 40 Comanechi of gymnastics | 84 "A," in Brest | 114 Rat-a-tat |
| 51 Suffix with press or prefect | 51 Troubles terribly | 127 Rock's Motley — | 41 Until 2001 | 85 Earth orbiter until 2001 | 115 Stop existing |
| 52 UFO crew members | 52 Troubles terribly | 128 Swabs | 42 Abjectly | 116 Rat-a-tat | 116 Rat-a-tat |
| | | 129 Wish to undo | 43 Abjectly | 117 Traveler's path: Abbr. | 117 Traveler's path: Abbr. |
| | | 130 Smile center | 44 Until 2001 | 118 "Quit — bellyachin!" | 118 "Quit — bellyachin!" |

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences:
1. Lamb is missing. 2. Ear flap on hat is smaller. 3. Sign is different.
4. House number is different. 5. Purse is missing. 6. Watch is missing.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals L

QEVK J UVJXWARXY QSHJK

OVHSIVD NSXO RJTAJY DWXUUUV,

NSX TSXYP DJN NSX QVOV

DEJIVP UN WEV UVYYV.

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Kids' Maze

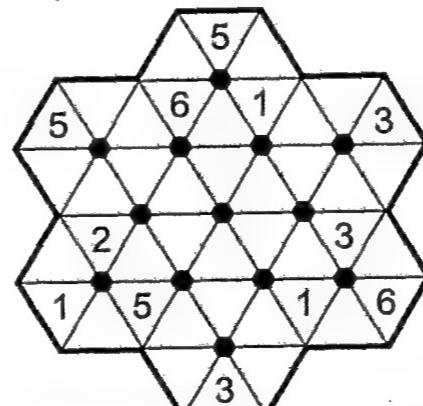


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Snowflakes

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

★★★ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLED WORDS
CRYPTOPUNZIP

ANSWER: ANSWERS

SCRAMBLED CROSSWORD

ANSWER: ANSWERS

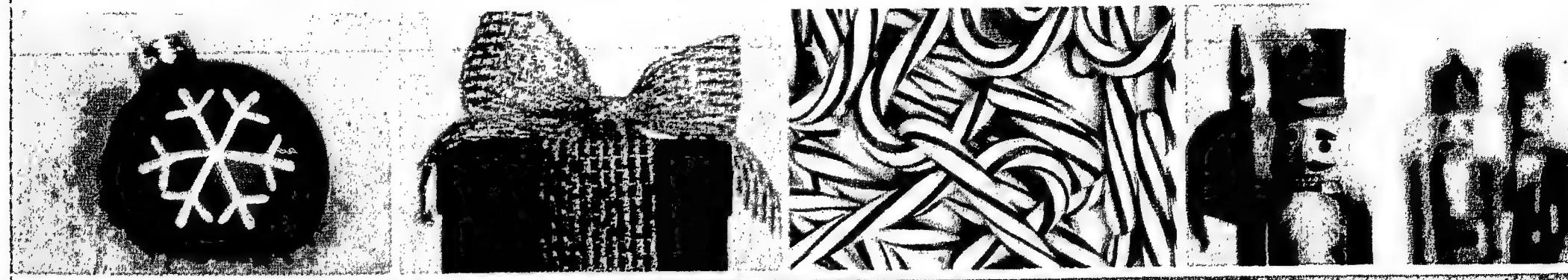
SCRAMBLED SUDOKU

ANSWER: ANSWERS

SCRAMBLED PUZZLES

ANSWER: ANSWERS

SCRAMBLED SCRAMBLE



Make your holiday dinner party a smash hit!

Happening Around Town

Gould Academy's Annual Yulefest Friday, December 18

4 to 5pm, Bingham Auditorium, Church Street, Bethel. Take in the sounds of the holidays during Gould Academy's Annual Yulefest and watch as the school's band, chorus group and student vocalists set the stage for a magical evening performance. FMI: www.gouldacademy.org

Cocoa, Cookies, and Movie: The Polar Express Jammies Party December 18 & 22

The Gem Theater, 23 Cross Street, Bethel. For all the believers (and doubters) we'll have hot cocoa, cookies and a fun holiday movie. Please come in your PJ's! Come at 6pm for hot cocoa and cookies! Movie starts at 6:30pm, \$5. FMI/tickets: www.thegemtheater.com

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides Saturday, December 18

Horse-drawn wagon rides for the whole family! 1-3pm. Sponsored by Smokin' Good BBQ. Meet at the north end of the town common near the Chapman Inn for rides through historic Bethel village. Rides given by Deepwood Farm.

Meet Dean Bennett/Book Launch Event at Bethel Historical Society Saturday, December 19

1:30 to 3:30pm at Dr. Moses Mason House. Includes a foreword by author and naturalist, Robert Kimber. "Ghost Buck: One Man's Family and their Hunting Traditions" by Dean Bennett. The author tells an intimate and multi-generational tale about the environmental and cultural changes affecting hunting and the landscape that have taken place since his boyhood in western Maine.

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Living Nativity Sunday, December 20

5pm on the Bethel Common. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It will be followed by a time of sharing Christmas refreshments at the Moses Mason House. Call 207-824-2289 for more information.



Shop Local Throughout the Year

While you're wrapping up your shopping — and wrapping up your gifts — reflect on your shopping experience. Did you find something fun, useful, or perfect for someone in an unexpected way? Did you meet a helpful shopkeeper, or get to know your neighbors a little better when you ran into them out on the town? Did you discover something for yourself that you wouldn't have otherwise purchased locally? If you answered YES to any of these questions, keep that in mind when you're shopping throughout the year. Shopping locally is a mindset that benefits the economy and community all 365 days!

Feta Cheese Ball

8 oz. container crumbled feta cheese
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
2 tbsp butter, softened
1 tbsp fresh dill weed, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
assorted crackers

Combine all ingredients except crackers. Beat with an electric mixer on low speed. When well blended, form cheese mixture into a ball to wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight. Serve with assorted crackers. Serves 8 to 10

Cranberry-Gorgonzola Green Salad

1/3 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup seasoned rice vinegar
3/4 tsp Dijon mustard
1 clove garlic, pressed
1 small head Bibb lettuce, torn
1 small head green leaf lettuce, torn
1 apple, chopped
1/3 cup coarsely chopped walnuts, toasted
1/3 cup dried cranberries
1/3 cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese

Whisk together first 4 ingredients in a small bowl; set aside. Just before serving, combine Bibb lettuce and next 5 ingredients in a large bowl. Pour dressing over salad; toss gently. Serves 8.

Waldorf Slaw

16 oz. pkg. coleslaw mix
2 cups Braeburn apples, cored, peeled and chopped
1 cups Bartlett pears, cored, peeled and chopped
1/2 cup raisins
3 tbsp chopped walnuts
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 tsp lemon zest
2 tbsp lemon juice
1/4 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper

Combine coleslaw mix, apples, pears, raisins and walnuts in a large bowl; set aside. Combine remaining ingredients, stirring well with a whisk. Drizzle mayonnaise mixture over coleslaw mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate 30 minutes. Makes 10 servings.

Loaded Mashed Potato Casserole

5 to 6 potatoes, peeled and cubed
1/2 cup milk
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
8 oz. container sour cream
2 tsp dried parsley
1 tsp garlic salt
1/4 tsp nutmeg
1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
12 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled

Cover potatoes with water in a large saucepan; bring to boil over medium heat. Reduce heat; simmer for 20 to 25 minutes. Drain well. Mash until light and fluffy. In a large bowl, beat together all ingredients except Cheddar cheese and bacon until smooth and creamy. Spoon into a lightly greased 13"x9" baking pan; sprinkle with cheese and bacon. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or until heated through. Serves 10 to 12.

Maple-Glazed Acorn Squash Rings

2 acorn squash, sliced crosswise into rings and seeds removed
1 cup maple syrup
salt and pepper to taste
1 tart apple, peeled, cored and chopped
1 tsp cinnamon

Place squash rings in a greased 13"x9" baking pan; season with salt and pepper. Combine remaining ingredients in a bowl; pour over squash. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 40 to 60 minutes, until squash is fork-tender. Makes 6 servings.

Maple-Glazed Carrots

16 oz. pkg. baby carrots
3 slices bacon, chopped
1 apple, cored, peeled and sliced into thin wedges
2 tbsp maple syrup
salt and pepper to taste

Place carrots in a saucepan and cover with water; bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook for 10 minutes, or until crisp-tender; drain. Set aside. Cook bacon in a skillet over medium heat for 3 minutes, or until lightly browned. Add apple and cook for 2 minutes. Add carrots, maple syrup, salt and pepper; stir frequently. Cook until carrots are warmed through and lightly glazed. Serve immediately. Serves 4.

Cranberry Sauce

12 oz. pkg. cranberries
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup water
1/3 cup orange juice
zest of 1 orange
1 cup walnuts, broken
2 tsp cinnamon

Combine first 5 ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over low heat, stirring constantly. Cook until mixture begins to thicken, about 5 minutes. Add nuts and cinnamon; cook for another 2 minutes. Chill at least one hour before serving. Makes 2-1/2 cups.

Anytime Cheesy Biscuits

2 cups biscuit baking mix
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
2/3 cup milk
1/4 cup margarine, melted
1/4 tsp garlic powder

Combine first 3 ingredients together until a soft dough forms; beat vigorously for 30 seconds. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls onto an ungreased baking sheet; bake at 450 degrees until golden, about 8 to 10 minutes. Whisk margarine and garlic powder together; spread over warm biscuits. Makes about 1-1/2 dozen.

Parmesan Baked Chicken

1/2 cup butter, melted
1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup Italian-flavored dry bread crumbs
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp fresh parsley
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp garlic powder
pepper to taste
Optional: 1/2 tsp Italian seasoning
4 to 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

In a bowl, combine butter and garlic. In another bowl, combine bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese and seasonings. Dip chicken in butter mixture to coat; dredge in bread crumb mixture. Place chicken into an ungreased 13"x9" baking pan. Drizzle remaining butter mixture over chicken. Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, until juices run clear when pierced. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Buckeye Brownies

19/2 oz. pkg. brownie mix
2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup plus 6 tbsp butter, softened and divided
8 oz. jar creamy peanut butter
6 oz. pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips

Prepare and bake brownie mix in a greased 13"x9" baking pan according to package directions. Let cool. Mix powdered sugar, 1/2 cup butter and peanut butter. Mix well and spread over cooled brownies. Chill for one hour. Melt together chocolate chips and remaining butter in a saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally. Spread over brownies. Let cool; cut into squares. Makes 2 to 3 dozen.

Raspberry Upside-Down Cake

1/4 cup butter, melted
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 cups raspberries
2 tbsp sliced almonds
1 1/2 cup biscuit baking mix
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup milk
2 tbsp oil
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp almond extract
1 egg, beaten
Garnish: additional raspberries and sliced almonds

Drizzle butter in a 9" round cake pan; sprinkle sugar over top. Arrange raspberries, open ends up, over sugar mixture; sprinkle with almonds. In a bowl, combine remaining ingredients except garnish. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed for 4 minutes. Pour into pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes, until a toothpick tests clean. Immediately place a heatproof serving plate upside-down over pan; turn plate and pan over. Leave pan over cake for one minute to allow sugar mixture to drizzle over cake; remove pan. Cool 10 minutes before serving. Garnish as desired and serve warm. Makes 9 servings.



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D
E
C
1
7

2
0
1
5

Puzzles4Kids

CODED RIDDLE

by Helene Hovanec

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

X I B U I B Q Q F O F E X I F O T B O U B H P U B

T P S F U I S P B U C F G P S F D I S J T U N B T ? I F

I B E U P I B W F I J T U J O T F M T U B L F O P V U .

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

| | | | | |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Switch | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| GANECH | | | | |
| Kindling | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| RIDENT | | | | |
| Snap | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| CLACKER | | | | |
| Smirk | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| PRIMES | | | | |

TODAY'S WORD

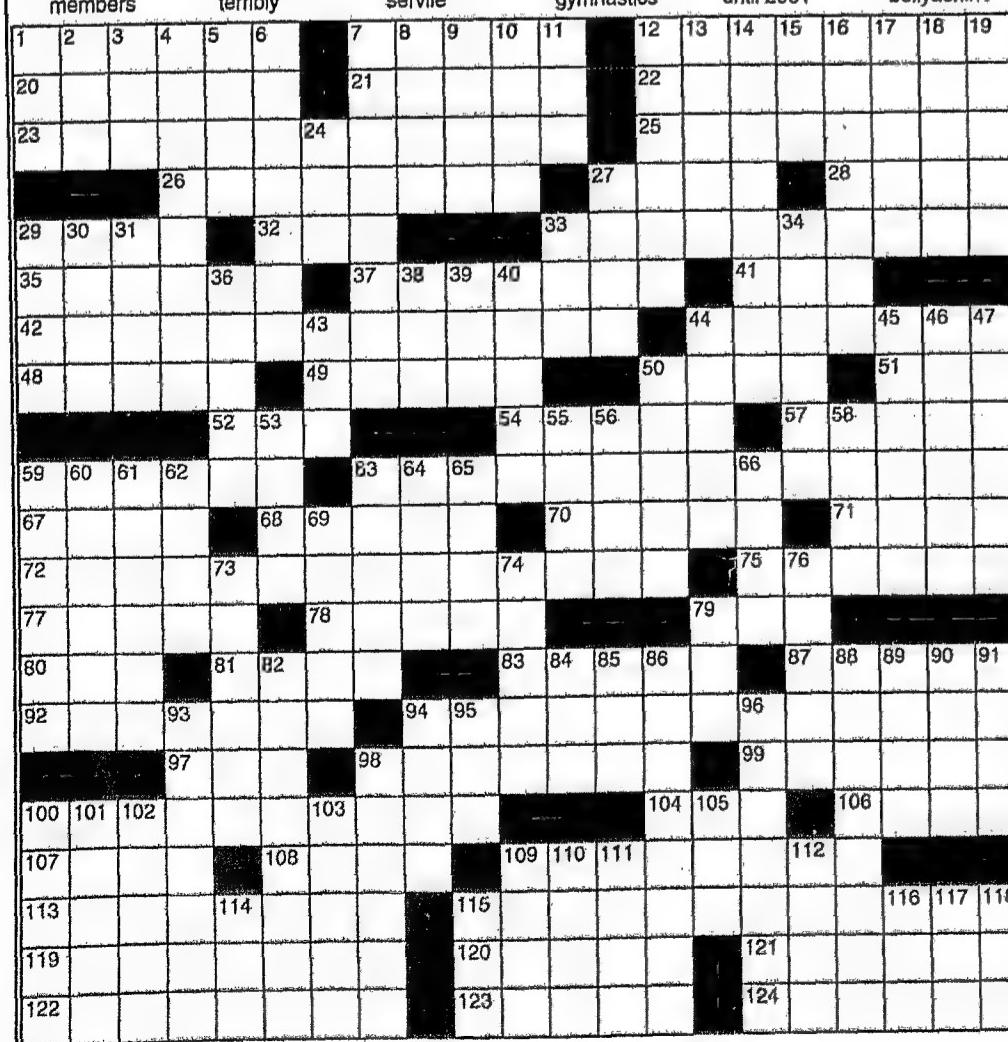
"Could you speed it up?"

He's _____."

Super Crossword

LITERAL LANGUAGE LESSON

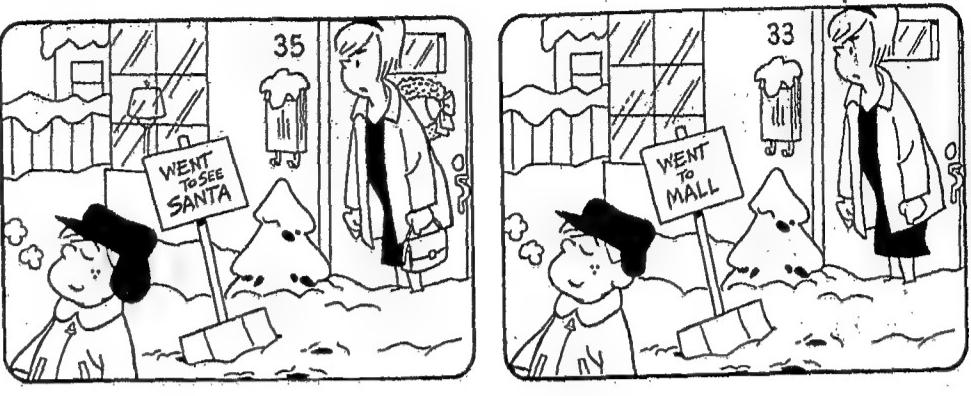
| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 54 "How can — thank you?" | 100 CRUX | 7 Tramway vehicle | 43 Holy people: Abbr. | 86 Gauged |
| 1 Brings together | 57 Archipelago | 106 With 90- part | 8 Light tan | 44 Flat cap | 88 Suburb of Washington, D.C. |
| 7 Refrain from Wild prank | 59 Result of a belly flop | Down, side | 9 To — (exactly) | 45 Steamboat pioneer | 89 To boot |
| 12 Toss again, as dice | 63 KOUCHUJU | that's not visiting | 10 Adriatic and Baltic | 46 Buly's threat | 90 See 106-Across |
| 21 Took steps | 67 Prudish type | 107 "How sad!" | 11 Roush of the Reds | 47 Rip anew | 91 Smurf or Rock suffix |
| 22 Wynton of jazz trumpet | 68 Garlic-seasoned mayonnaise | 108 DVR | 12 Symbol | 50 Labor activist Chavez | 93 Old Austrian emperors |
| 23 PANE | 70 Howling mad | 109 Summer starts with | 13 Beauty shop | 53 Warm up | 94 Mediocre |
| 25 Blows stormily, as wind | 71 Artist Bonheur | one unknown | 14 They're leaned on for support | 55 Writer Bagold | 95 Speaker systems, for short |
| 26 Lessens in worth | 72 LUACH | 113 At an unknown point in the future | 15 Horse cousin | 56 Wang of fashion | 96 Sphinx riddle solver |
| 27 Congeal | 75 Shylock, e.g., | 115 BAGVAERK | 16 Eye covers | 58 Medicinal fluids | 98 London's Garden |
| 28 Plains tribe | 77 Actor/singer | Zac | 17 New Olds of 1999 | 59 Orb | 100 Makes if |
| 29 Baby's first word, maybe | 78 Pizzelle flavoring | 119 Poe poem | 18 More terrible | 60 Opt for first | 101 Honolulu "hi" |
| 32 "— heard worse" | 79 Eur. country or Can. province | 120 Dunne of film | 19 Ruhr city | 61 Many babies born in fall | 102 Instills |
| 33 CORNE | 80 Stephen of "The Heavy" | 121 Make current | 24 Of warships: Abbr. | 62 Farming-related prefix | 103 Docility in |
| 35 Rudimentary seeds | 81 Old letter salutation | 122 Most cheeky | 27 Rock's Motley — | 63 Rivers and Baez | 103 Singer LeAnn |
| 37 Skull | 83 Mountain cals | 123 Slacked off | 29 Swabs | 64 "For — know ..." | 105 — power |
| 41 Weed-chopping tool | 87 Tai off | 124 Usher, often | 30 Declare openly | 65 Pizzeria orders | 109 Actress Gilbert |
| 42 KIELBASA | 92 "Tobacco Road" | 125 Slackened off | 31 Equine hybrid | 110 Tip jar items | 110 Top jar items |
| 44 Requests desperately | novelist Caldwell | 126 Make current | 33 Pear-shaped false fruit | 66 Toll producer | 111 Queue (up) |
| 48 Sugary | 94 TORTILLA | 127 Slacked off | 34 Immobilize at a rodeo | 69 Statement of empathy | 112 Bullfight wear |
| 49 Car tire's outer layer | 97 — Khan (Islamic title) | 128 Make current | 36 Will of "Blue Bloods" | 73 Pulver's rank | 114 — chi (marital art) |
| 50 "— [a vte]" | 98 Ships transporting fossil fuel | 129 Wish to undo | 38 Wish to undo | 74 Sherpa land president | 115 Stop existing |
| 51 Suffix with press or prefect | 5 Fibbed | 130 Make current | 39 Simile | 82 Dormant | 116 Rat-a— |
| 52 UFO crew members | 5 Writer Wiesel | 131 Make current | 40 Comane of gymnastics | 84 "A," in Bresl until 2001 | 117 Traveler's path: Abbr. |
| | 6 Abjectly servile | 132 Most cheeky | | 118 "Quit — bellyachin!" | 118 "Quit — bellyachin!" |



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences:
1. House number is different. 2. Ear flap on hat is smaller. 3. Shirt is different.
4. Lamp is missing. 5. Purse is missing. 6. Watch is missing.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals L

QEVK J UVJXWARXY QSHJK

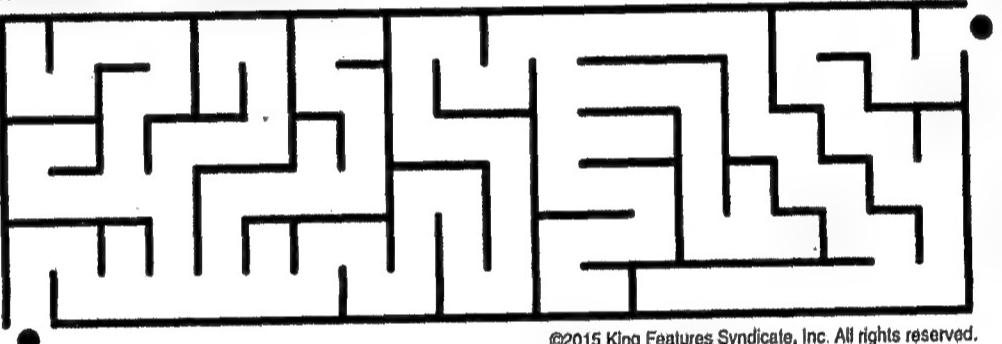
OVHSIVD NSXO RJTAJY DWXUUUV,

NSX TSXYP DJN NSX QVOV

DEJIVP UN WEV UVYYV.

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Kids' Maze

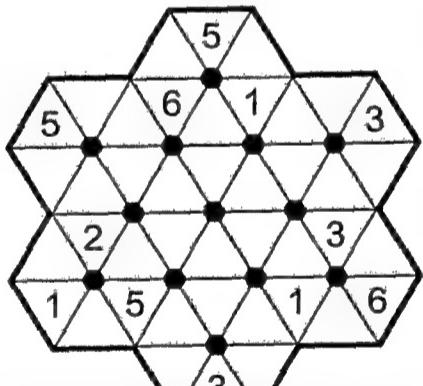


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Snowflakes

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 4 | 7 | | | | | | 5 |
| 1 | | 8 | 3 | | | | |
| 6 | 9 | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| 3 | | 6 | 5 | | | | |
| 6 | | 4 | 1 | 7 | | | |
| | 8 | 9 | | | | | 4 |
| | 2 | 5 | 8 | | | | |
| 4 | | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | | |
| 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | | |

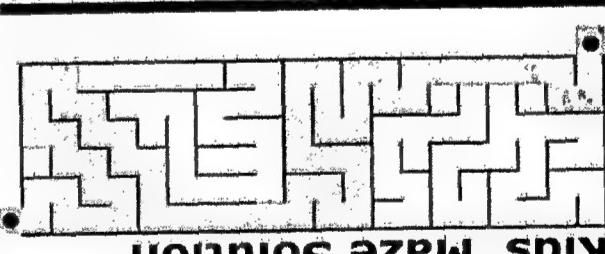
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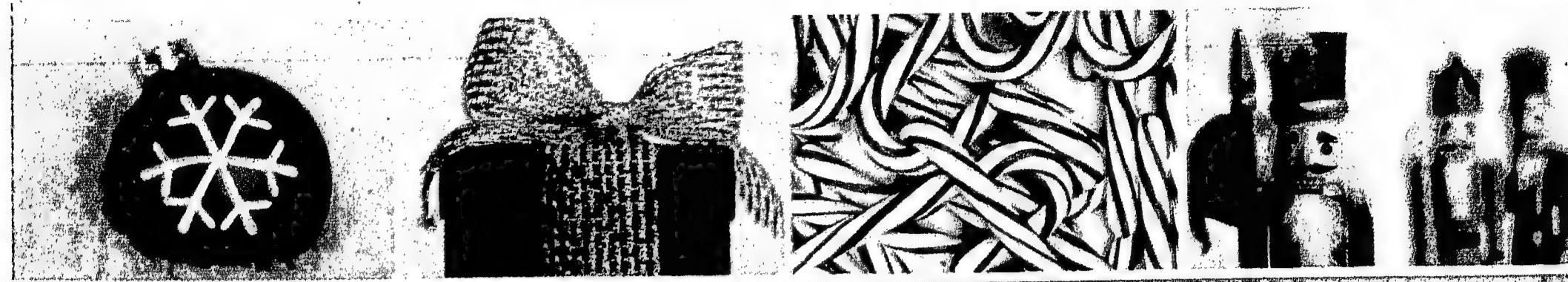
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SCRAMBLES
Cryptography
Solutions

THINKING
Today's Word
When a beautiful woman shaves her face before the belle.

ANSWER
Puzzles4Kids



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1/3 cup vegetable oil
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1 small head Bibb lettuce, torn
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1 apple, chopped
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1/3 cup dried cranberries
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Whisk together first 4 ingredients in a small bowl; set aside. Just before serving, combine Bibb lettuce and next 5 ingredients in a large bowl. Pour dressing over salad; toss gently. Serves 8.

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3/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
12 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled

Cover potatoes with water in a large saucepan; bring to boil over medium heat. Reduce heat; simmer for 20 to 25 minutes. Drain well. Mash until light and fluffy. In a large bowl, beat together all ingredients except Cheddar cheese and bacon until smooth and creamy. Spoon into a lightly greased 13"x9" baking pan; sprinkle with cheese and bacon. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, or until heated through. Serves 10 to 12.

Maple-Glazed Acorn Squash Rings

2 acorn squash, sliced crosswise into rings and seeds removed
1 cup maple syrup
salt and pepper to taste
1 tart apple, peeled, cored and chopped
1 tsp cinnamon

Place squash rings in a greased 13"x9" baking pan; season with salt and pepper. Combine remaining ingredients in a bowl; pour over squash. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 40 to 60 minutes, until squash is fork-tender. Makes 6 servings.

Maple-Glazed Carrots

16 oz. pkg. baby carrots
3 slices bacon, chopped
1 apple, cored, peeled and sliced into thin wedges
2 tbsp maple syrup
salt and pepper to taste

Place carrots in a saucepan and cover with water; bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook for 10 minutes, or until crisp-tender; drain. Set aside. Cook bacon in a skillet over medium heat for 3 minutes, or until lightly browned. Add apple and cook for 2 minutes. Add carrots, maple syrup, salt and pepper; stir frequently. Cook until carrots are warmed through and lightly glazed. Serve immediately. Serves 4.

Cranberry Sauce

12 oz. pkg. cranberries
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup water
1/3 cup orange juice
zest of 1 orange
1 cup walnuts, broken
2 tsp cinnamon

Combine first 5 ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over low heat, stirring constantly. Cook until mixture begins to thicken, about 5 minutes. Add nuts and cinnamon; cook for another 2 minutes. Chill at least one hour before serving. Makes 2-1/2 cups.

Anytime Cheesy Biscuits

2 cups biscuit baking mix
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
2/3 cup milk
1/4 cup margarine, melted
1/4 tsp garlic powder

Combine first 3 ingredients together until a soft dough forms; beat vigorously for 30 seconds. Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls onto an ungreased baking sheet; bake at 450 degrees until golden, about 8 to 10 minutes. Whisk margarine and garlic powder together; spread over warm biscuits. Makes about 1-1/2 dozen.

Parmesan Baked Chicken

1/2 cup butter, melted
1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup Italian-flavored dry bread crumbs
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp fresh parsley
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp garlic powder
pepper to taste
Optional: 1/2 tsp Italian seasoning
4 to 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

In a bowl, combine butter and garlic. In another bowl, combine bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese and seasonings. Dip chicken in butter mixture to coat; dredge in bread crumb mixture. Place chicken into an ungreased 13"x9" baking pan. Drizzle remaining butter mixture over chicken. Bake, uncovered, at 400 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, until juices run clear when pierced. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Buckeye Brownies

19 1/2 oz. pkg. brownie mix
2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup plus 6 tbsp butter, softened and divided
8 oz. jar creamy peanut butter
6 oz. pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips

Prepare and bake brownie mix in a greased 13"x9" baking pan according to package directions. Let cool. Mix powdered sugar, 1/2 cup butter and peanut butter. Mix well and spread over cooled brownies. Chill for one hour. Melt together chocolate chips and remaining butter in a saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally. Spread over brownies. Let cool; cut into squares. Makes 2 to 3 dozen.

Raspberry Upside-Down Cake

1/4 cup butter, melted
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 cups raspberries
2 tbsp sliced almonds
1 1/2 cup biscuit baking mix
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk
2 tbsp oil
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp almond extract
1 egg, beaten
Garnish: additional raspberries and sliced almonds

Drizzle butter in a 9" round cake pan; sprinkle sugar over top. Arrange raspberries, open ends up, over sugar mixture; sprinkle with almonds. In a bowl, combine remaining ingredients except garnish. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed for 4 minutes. Pour into pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes, until a toothpick tests clean. Immediately place a heatproof serving plate upside-down over pan; turn plate and pan over. Leave pan over cake for one minute to allow sugar mixture to drizzle over cake; remove pan. Cool 10 minutes before serving. Garnish as desired and serve warm. Makes 9 servings.



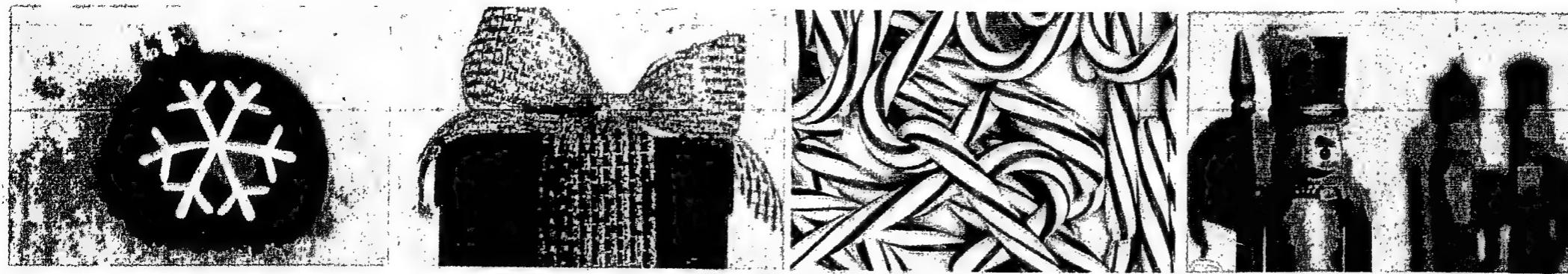
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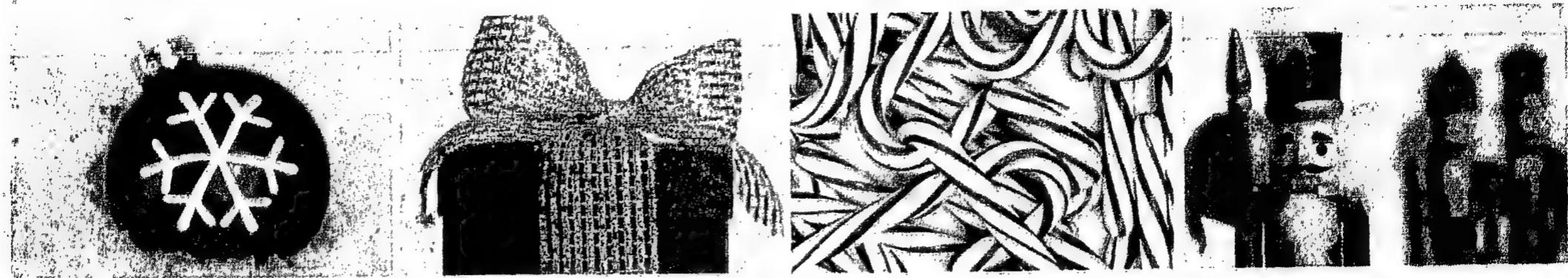
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Getting your holiday gifts to their destination safely

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As families spread out across the country and even across the globe, the holidays can become a little more difficult to navigate. According to AAA, a federation of motor clubs throughout the United States, roughly 90 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more for year-end holidays.

Families that are spread out must decide where to spend the holidays together. But in some cases, families can't all be together, so celebrations must be handled remotely and gifts shipped to waiting recipients.

Shopping for gifts may have taken some time, but now you will have to figure out how to get those gifts where they need to go. The following are some pointers for holiday celebrants who are driving, flying, taking a bus, or shipping gifts.

Shipping dates

If the goal is to purchase and ship gifts near and far, starting early has its advantages. Thousands upon thousands of cards and packages are shipped each day during the holiday season.

Many shipping services will get packages to recipients on time, but customers can help them along by sending them several weeks before the holidays. Shipping later in the season may incur additional fees for priority shipping. Always check sellers' "purchase by" dates to ensure items will arrive on time.

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Items that will be shipped internationally should include a detailed description as well as the value of the package. Presents under a certain value may be duty-free or tax-exempt. Check with customs to get a better idea of the shipping regulations.

Plane ride

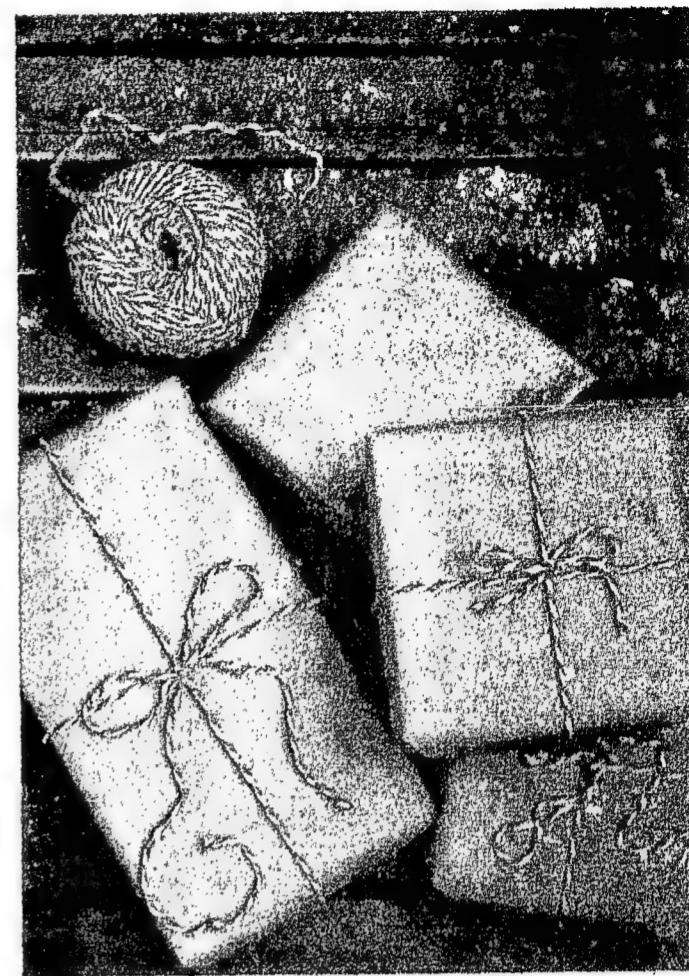
Airlines have specific regulations in place regarding which items can and cannot be brought on planes, at least inside of the cabin. Thanks to increased security measures, restrictions are greater than they once were. Transportation Security Administration officers may have to inspect items for safety purposes. It may be better to leave gifts unwrapped and then wrap them after the flight to avoid hassles during the screening process. Liquids, including foods, may need to be put in a checked bag if they exceed 3.4 ounces. Consider shipping delicate items ahead of time if you are concerned about breakage.

Packing the car

C

If a holiday road trip is in your future, space constraints may require you to be a little creative when packing the car. Shop for smaller gifts, including gift cards, which are easier to transport. Advise family and friends that you will have limited space so they should not go overboard with regard to gifts given to you in return.

Heed safety precautions and do not obscure driver visibility in the car by stacking presents too high. Also,



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secure boxes and packages in the car so they do not slide or move around. Anything that is not secured can become airborne in the event of a collision, increasing the risk for injury. Items placed on roof racks should be tightly secured so they don't fall off and present a hazard.

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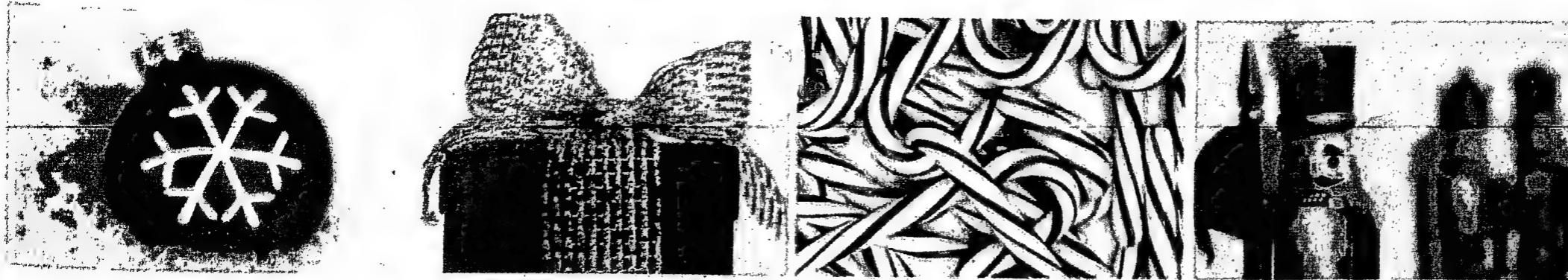
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Gift Exchange Dos and Don'ts

Chanukah, Christmas and New Year's Eve are right around the corner. That means neighborhoods, buildings and stores will soon be awash in holiday splendor. Social schedules will be full, and men and women everywhere will shuffle to complete their holiday shopping.

DO Grab bags are a staple of this season of giving, and the following are a few dos and don'ts to ensure participation in gift exchanges is fun and friendly for all involved.

DO set a gift amount limit. Holiday grab bags are more about having fun and exchanging a little something with friends and family members than walking away with amazing prizes. Establish a spending limit so everyone receives a gift of roughly the same value and no one feels slighted or left out.

DON'T exceed the spending limit. It can be tempting to spend more to make your gift appear more impressive. But overspending defeats the purpose of the gift exchange. Grab bags typically are anonymous, so being overly generous will not win you any style points.

DO make it a game. Tossing gifts in a bag only to have others reach in and grab one is certainly effective. But the concept can be even more fun if you make a game out of it. Try passing wrapped gifts around in a circle to a holiday song. When the music stops, the gift you are holding is the one you open. Experiment with your own variations to make gift exchanges more fun.

DON'T let anyone see the gift you bring. The idea is to keep things as secretive as possible so as not to sway the selection of presents.

DO ensure your gift is unisex. Unless you know specifically that only men or women will be opening the presents, select items that will appeal to both genders. Food, gift cards, music, or home staples make great grab bag gifts.

DON'T forget to consider ages as well. Gift exchanges may include both children and adults, so include gifts that appeal to all ages when necessary. When the exchange has ended, allow participants to swap gifts if they want to.



DO expect some grab bag gifts to be gag gifts. Such gifts are entertaining and may make up the majority of the grab bag gifts. Keep your sense of humor and you're likely to enjoy grab bags a lot more.

DON'T regift items to use as grab bag picks. Should the person who gave you the gift participate in the grab bag, he or she can trace that gift back to you and may be offended.

DO make sure everyone is aware that there will be a grab bag gift exchange, as there needs to be an equal number of gifts to participants so everyone gets a treat. Hosts may want to have a few extra wrapped gifts around just in case someone forgets to bring their contribution.

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Bethel Historical Society news

Christmas Open House

Over 70 people, including several families with children, took part in the Society's annual Christmas celebration in the period rooms of the 1813 Dr. Moses Mason House on Saturday, Dec. 5. Festooned with greenery and illuminated only by candles, the first floor rooms in Bethel Hill's oldest residence came alive as visitors warmed themselves in front of the fireplaces and enjoyed mulled cider and sweets in the winter kitchen and dining room. Once again, guests at the free event were entertained by local harpist Connie St. Pierre, whose musical selections included many old-time carols and Christmas songs. The Society thanks all the wonderful

volunteers who provided greens, decorated the period rooms, made cookies, or greeted visitors between 3:30 and 6:00 p.m.; Jackie Bell, Rosemary LaBan, Stan Howe, Danna Nickerson, Rachel MacKay, Amy Chapman, and Susie Wight.

Saturday Book Launch

The launch of Dean Bennett's newest book, "Ghost Buck: The Legacy of One Man's Family and Its Hunting Traditions," will take place Saturday, Dec. 19, from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Dr. Moses Mason House (14 Broad Street). The book signing is free and refreshments are available.

Museum Shop items

The special 20 percent-off sale in the Museum Shop continues through December, and a number of new

books and gifts – ideal for Christmas giving – have been added to the Shop's inventory. New book titles include "How to Camp Out" (a reprint of an 1877 survival guide by John Mead Gould of Portland), "Maine Lodges and Sporting Camps," "The Rangeley Lakes Region," "Distilled in Maine: A History of Libations, Temperance & Craft Spirits," "The Visual Language of Wabanaki Art," and "New England Skiing." A highlight of new gift items available are more than a dozen matted and framed Maine photographs taken by Danna Brown Nickerson, a talented local photographer who is on the Society's staff. Ranging from winter snow scenes to gorgeous summer sunsets,

these beautiful images will enhance any wall and are sure to please those who admire the mountains, lakes and rivers of western Maine.

The Museum Shop is located in the O'Neil Robinson House. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Many items can also be purchased online through the website (www.bethelhistorical.org).

50th Anniversary

Annual Fund update
The Society is extremely grateful to all who have donated to its "50th Anniversary Annual Fund Campaign" in honor of the organization's semi-centennial in 2016. Recent contributors are William and Deborah Andrews; Karen and Don Bean; John

and Wendy Delery Hills; Rachel MacKay; Thomas H. Mitchell, in memory of Albert T. Mitchell; William S. Strauss; Anne and George Ball; James and Julia Bennett, in memory of Beatrice Brown Conrad; Jim and Vicki Smith; Joann C. Mooney; Grace Douglass; Norma Keegan; Stephen L. Sessions; Rona and Larry Strout, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Erland Wentzell and Stan and Millie Wentzell; Iris W. Baird; Glenn Skillin; Virginia H. Gamble; Jason S. Hastings; Paula W. Jansmann; Mrs. Susan Brown Kettinger, in memory of Norris Thurston Brown and Rosalie Thurston Wight; Mary-Jane Robichaud, in memory of Anthony and Eleanor Pugliese; Beth Stone; An-

drea Greenleaf and Carol Jorgensen, in memory of Arlene Brown and Bessie Bennett; Nancy LeCompte; Susan Herlihy; Roxanne Twitchell Sly; Nat and Betty Bartholomae.

To help it reach its goal, the Society is asking 2014 givers to consider increasing their donation by \$50 or more to become "Golden Anniversary Donors." Donations of \$50 or more from anyone who has not given to Annual Fund before will also qualify them to be listed as "Golden Anniversary Donors" in the Society's next Report of Giving. Gifts in any amount to support the Society's work may be mailed to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217 and are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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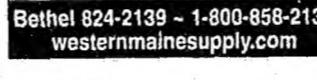


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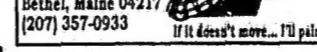
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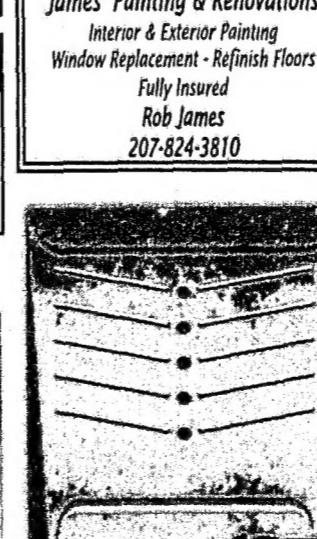
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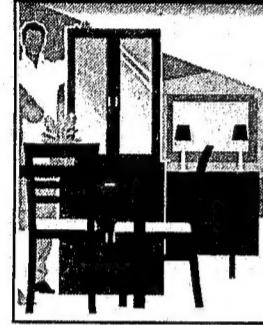
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The fee for the rabies shot is \$15.00. PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE IN CASH ONLY!

A staff member from the Bethel Town Office will be available to license dogs for Bethel, Albany and Mason residents.

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acter, needs refurbishing. \$35. ANTIQUE WALL PHONE: needs work \$25. OLD FARM CREAM SEPARATOR: All/most parts included \$75. RASCAL ELECTRIC SCOOTER: R/C 4, hardly used, needs batteries. \$200. Call or text: 207-462-4117 or 207-462-4118

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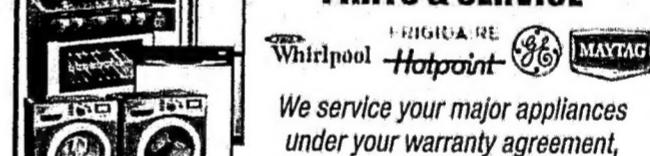
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Obituaries



INA GROVER

Ina Helen Ellingwood Grover passed away peacefully at her home on Dec. 12, 2015. She was 91 years old. Ina was born the daughter of Joseph and Elsie (Gary) Ellingwood on Nov. 2, 1924 in South Paris and was raised on the farm which is now the Celebration Barn Theater. She attended West Paris High School before her marriage to Rupert Henry Grover, Sr. on March 5, 1943. Together they raised four children and worked on "The Farm" in Mason Township until Rupert's death on Nov. 25, 2010. Ina was also employed by Kendal Dowell Mill for a number of years.

Ina was devoted to her family and community, serving as a member of the Eastern Star, the Pleasant Valley Grange and the West Bethel Union Church. She could usually be found in her kitchen, preparing for a community

or family gathering. An excellent seamstress, she created many quilts and other handmade items for her loved ones. She was an avid reader, knowledgeable family genealogist, and was always ready for a game of Scrabble, cribbage, or cards. Ina also loved the outdoors — gardening, hunting and fishing were among her favorite things to do. She enjoyed traveling as well, often reminiscing about trips she and Rupert had taken with friends and family, and she even made the journey to Hudson Bay on a hunting trip with her sons just two years ago. Most of all, she loved keeping up with her grandchildren and extended family, attending school functions, reunions, and other events — always with her camera in hand.

Ina is survived by her son Rupert Grover Jr. and his wife Suzanne of Norway; son Daniel Grover and his wife Nancy of Mason; daughter Elsie Aylward of Mason; her sisters, Evelyn Chamberlain, Susie Abbott, and Beryl Oja; grandchildren Jessica Grover, Garth Grover, Lydia Grover, Martha Grover, Eileen Flynn, Diane Merrill, Crystal Aylward, Joshua Aylward, Rebecca Cole, David T. Hanscom, and their father, her former son-in-law David Hanscom, and sixteen great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Rupert; their daughter, Christine Hanscom; son-in-law, Don

Aylward; four brothers, Howard Ellingwood, Perley Ellingwood, Erwin Ellingwood, and Ralph Abbott; and three sisters, Doris Maxim, Amy Ferris Drake, and Ruth Lowell.

Services were held at the West Bethel Union Church on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 12 p.m. A gathering will follow at the Bethel Inn. Interment will take place at the West Bethel Flat Road Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the West Bethel Union Church, P.O. Box 42, West Bethel, Maine 04062.

Arrangements by Cliff Gray Cremation & Funeral Services, 60 Andrews Road, Bryant Pond.

ROSALIE MARIN

Rosalie (Fish) Marin, wife of 36 years to David Marin, Sr., passed away on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015 at the Rumford Community Hospital.

She also leaves behind their beloved daughter and caregiver, Sarah (Marin) Cameron and her husband Richard Cameron, Sr.; grandchildren Jessica Grover, Garth Grover, Lydia Grover, Martha Grover, Eileen Flynn, Diane Merrill, Crystal Aylward, Joshua Aylward, Rebecca Cole, David T. Hanscom, and their father, her former son-in-law David Hanscom, and sixteen great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Rupert; their daughter, Christine Hanscom; son-in-law, Don

Cann. He graduated from Falmouth High School, the University of Maine Orono in 1960 and the University of Vermont where he earned his MS in education in 1966. Richard taught at Albion High School and Lincoln Academy then moved to the Oxford Hills, where he served 30+ years in the SAD 44 school system including Woodstock High School and Telstar, serving as an administrator, teacher and coach. He created the MPBN Maine History course which aired from 1966-1967. He retired from teaching in 1992.

He served as an Oxford County Sheriff's Deputy and Bethel Police Department officer. He was an avid reader, hunter and fisherman, particularly enjoying the Moosehead region.

Richard married Sylvia Anderson of Newport, Maine in 1962. He is survived by his wife of West Paris; his beloved children: Steven S. McCann and his wife Lisa of West Paris, Amy L. Spain and her husband Andrew of Concord, N.H., and Laura J. McCann-Tripp and her husband Allen Tripp, Sr. of New Gloucester. He delighted in his 5 grandchildren: Steven McCann, Sean and Mark Spain, and Liliana Rose and Allen Tripp, Jr.

Arrangements by Cliff Gray Cremation and Funeral Services, 60 Andrews Road, Bryant Pond.

RICHARD H. MCCANN

Richard H. McCann, 78, of West Paris passed away on Tuesday, December 8 at his home. He was born in Portland on Sept. 19, 1937 the son of William K. and Marjorie Huston McCann.

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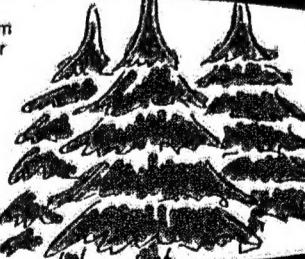
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A Waterford Christmas

With new strings of lights gracing the giant evergreen in the Village Common, Waterford is enjoying a serious case of Christmas spirit this year. Festivities formally begin on Dec. 20 when the Church hosts an open house for families in its historic sanctuary beginning at 4 p.m., followed by carol singing around the tree in the Common at 4:30. Special new caroling books, purchased jointly by the Church and the Waterford Library and donated to the town, will be available for the first time as local vocalist Jane Morse leads the community in song. Following the singing of carols, everyone is invited to the Library for treats and the traditional visit from Santa.

The Church's annual Christmas Eve service will be held on Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. and will feature choral music, readings, and a live Nativity scene with special music. All are invited to join in the celebration of this holy season. For more information, please visit the Waterford Congregational Church Facebook page.

Preliminary moose hunt numbers up

With the preliminary numbers in, it looks as though moose hunters were more successful in 2015 than in 2014.

"The numbers are still preliminary, but it looks as though better hunting weather, later seasons and fewer permits all contributed to a higher success rate for moose hunters," said Lee Kantar, moose biologist for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

"We had a number of moose that weighed in excess of 1,000 pounds," said Kantar. "The moose we examined looked very healthy, with good percentage of body fat stored for the winter."

Approximately 2,200 hunters harvested a moose in 2015, an 80 percent success rate for the 2,740 permits issued. This is up from 2014, when 2,022 of 3,095 hunters were successful for a 65 percent success rate. With approximately 12 percent fewer permits issued in 2015 than 2014, approximately 180 more moose hunters were successful in 2015.

Maine's moose hunt is designed to manage the moose population. By modifying the number and type of moose permits available to hunters, the department can manage the moose population in order to provide for hunting and viewing opportunities, maintain a healthy moose population, and limit the number of moose/vehicle accidents.

The moose hunt also provides thousands of pounds of wild game meat that is high in nutrition, sustainable, free range, and organic. On average, an 850-pound field dressed moose will provide over 450 pounds of meat.

"Hunting in Maine is a tradition," said IFW wildlife division director Judy Camuso, "Not only does it help us manage healthy wildlife populations, but it also provides organic, free-range protein to thousands of families in Maine and beyond."

The preliminary harvest results are calculated through biological data collected at moose registration stations during the September, October and November moose hunt seasons.

"Each year at moose registration stations, we examine over 90 percent of the moose that are harvested. By comparing the data to years past, we can get a fairly accurate estimate of how many hunters were successful," said Kantar, who added that a final harvest number on the hunt would be completed by the end of January.

Sign up for a trip to the

BOSTON FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Enjoy the beautiful gardens and exhibits at the Boston Flower and Garden Show at the Seaport World Trade Center. The \$65 fee includes round trip motor coach transportation and admission to the show. Meals and gratuities not included.

The bus will depart promptly from Telstar High School at 7:15am and arrive back in Bethel at approximately 6:30pm. *Sign up early, space is limited!*

Seats must be purchased by Friday, February 5th. No refunds after February 5th unless we cancel the trip due to the weather.

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